

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Holidays in the Nabe

Noe Valley Offers More Than The Ho Ho Ho

By Kit Cameron

It's time to start bustling down 24th Street, all aglow with festive lights and the forest of Christmas trees in front of Just for Fun at 3982 2th Street. You may be book shopping at Folio Books, 3957 24th Street, for that literary friend or finding the perfect pair of toddler jammies at Small Frys, 3985 24th Street, where you can snack on cookies Thursdays, December 7, 14 and 21 customers from 3 to 6pm. For stocking stuffers check out the foil wrapped Santas at Chocolate Covered, 4069 24th Street, or include a vial of sea salt from Perfectly Seasoned, 4017 24th Street.

Stop by Two Birds, at 1309 Castro Street to drool over their designer apparel and a special trunk show by local artist Meyla Ruwin on Saturday, December 16 from 2 to 5 pm. And on Wednesday, Dec 13th, from 11 to 2, Flatbed Farm will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



**The Lights of Hope.** This scene from the 2022 Chanukah celebration in the Noe Valley Town Square brings witness to what we trust will be a season of peace and reconciliation  
Photo by Art Bodner



**Rain or Shine** the Noe Valley Farmers Market is open on Saturdays with fresh seasonal produce..  
Photo by Art Bodner

## Farmers Market Feeds Community

Celebrating 20 Years in The Noe Valley Town Square

By Matthew S. Bajko

Twenty years ago on a Saturday morning in early December, Richard Anderson attended the inaugural Noe Valley Farmers Market. A connoisseur of fresh produce, he wanted to stock his pantry with the leafy greens, vegetables, and herbs he couldn't grow in his garden.

"I used to live in the suburbs in Hercules. When I lived there, I had a pretty nice producing garden," recalled Anderson, who would plant numerous varieties of basil and tomato plants in his yard. "When I moved to the city, I was

able to have a beautiful ornamental garden. I have even been a part of the Friends of Noe Valley garden tour. I just don't have space to grow fruits and vegetables and herbs."

Thus, when he learned about the new farmers market mere blocks from his home on Elizabeth Street, Anderson made sure to be there on opening day. Other than needing to miss it on a few occasions for health reasons, he has been a regular ever since.

"What I love about the market is things are really, really fresh and you get to see the farmers every Saturday," said Anderson, who has a standing order for lion's mane mushrooms from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Future of Lyon Martin House Uncertain

Funds Lacking to Buy Duncan Street Cottage

By Matthew S. Bajko

Plans for public access to the two-story cottage once owned by pioneering couple Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin are in doubt now that a historic preservation group has announced it is unable to buy the property. It could mean the home at 651 Duncan Street could revert to being a private residence.

Lyon and Martin had purchased the Noe Valley property in 1955, and it quickly became a gathering place within the city's lesbian community. It was also the site of various meetings and events for the Daughters of Bilitis, the first political and social organization for

lesbians in the United States. Martin and Lyon co-founded the group that same year.

In June 2008, the pair became the first same-sex couple to legally marry in California. Their nuptials came after a decision by the state's supreme court to allow such ceremonies, that is until the passage of the anti-gay-marriage Proposition 8 in November that same year. (Federal courts later ruled Prop. 8 unconstitutional, and next year voters will be asked to strike the ballot measure's language from the California Constitution.)

Martin died in 2008 at the age of 87, just weeks after she and Lyon had wed. Lyon died in 2020 at the age of 95. With her mothers both gone, Kendra Mon put

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



**Historical Site.** The fate of the house Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon called home is now in doubt.  
Photo by Matthew S. Bajko





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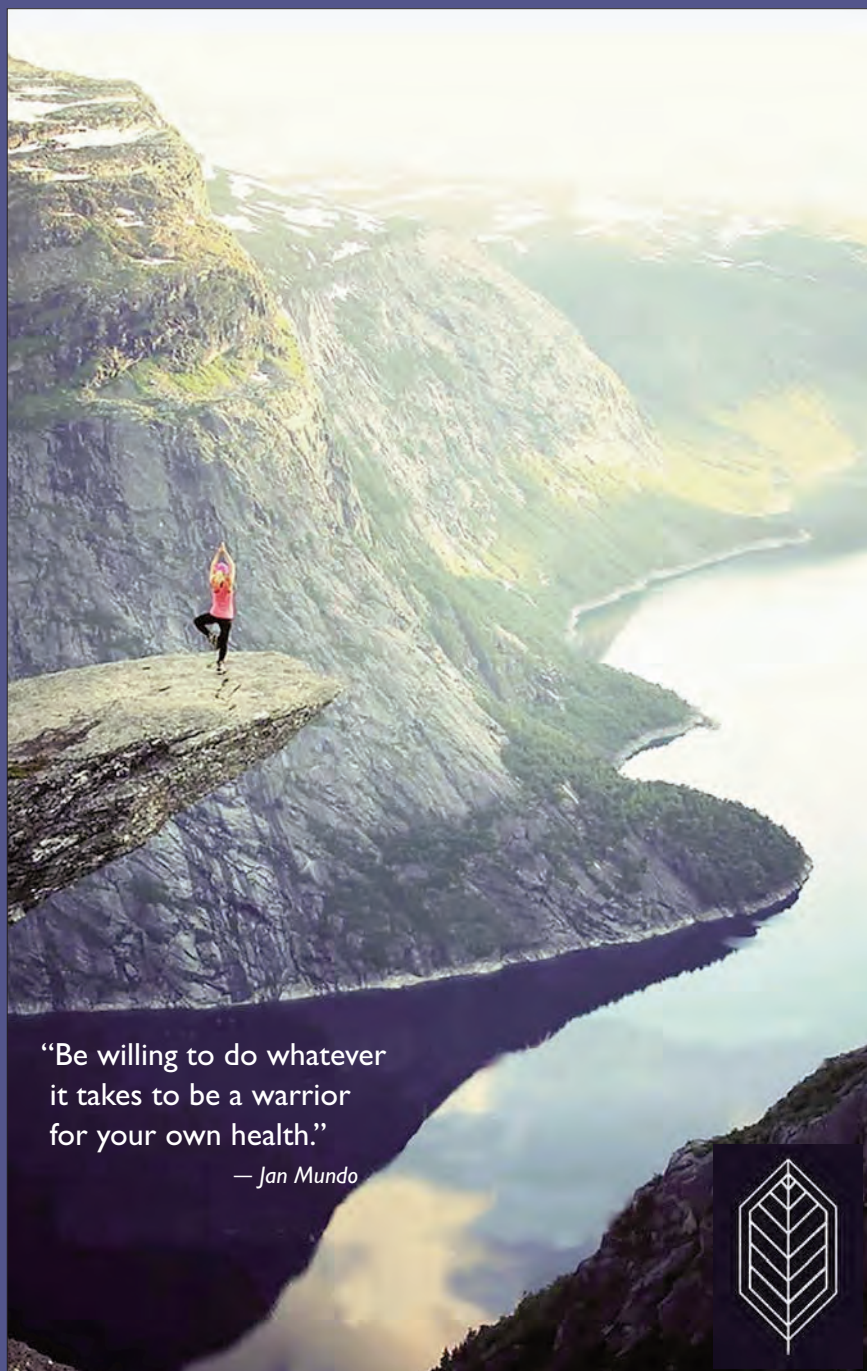
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# Let's make peace start here

To our neighbors in Noe Valley,

We are Jews who live with you, here. We walk to the Farmer's Market on Saturdays. We trick or treat up and down the streets. We bike, play, and walk on Slow Sanchez. We wait for closed storefronts to reopen and appreciate our neighborhood patch of San Francisco sunshine.

In response to the growing acts of antisemitism in our community, we want to tell you how many of your Jewish neighbors are living and feeling right now.

On the one hand, we are of many minds, and often disagree with each other – a core value of Judaism. Some of us are longtime critics of the sitting Israeli government. Some of us have family who are doctors in Israel performing autopsies on people burned or mutilated on October 7. Some of us have been hearing antisemitic slurs our whole lives, and more in the last few weeks. Some of us want a ceasefire. Some of us are liberals, some of us are conservatives.

We're united by our desire to see a peaceful Middle East and to bring every Israeli hostage home. Unfortunately we're also united by our emotional response to the antisemitism we are experiencing in stores, on the streets, and among our neighbors. In a neighborhood we call home, we now fear for our personal safety and for the safety of our children on our streets.

We accept the valid rage of Palestinians, at a situation that is beyond their control. It's a situation to which Israel, many Arab nations, and many other world powers, including the U.S., have contributed. None of us wants Palestinian civilians to suffer. We want to lead with love.

And, we hope it goes without saying, none of us wants to eradicate a people. "Genocide" – a word we now walk by

on a mural on 24th Street – means "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group." Israel's response, whatever one may think of it, is motivated by defense and not by the desire to eradicate a people. Genocide is what our people suffered during the Holocaust. And, though there may be some Israeli extremists – whom we denounce – who do call for genocide, that is not what Israel is doing today.

To justify the torture and brutality of Hamas on October 7 as "resistance" – as the artist of the 24th Street mural did in another work of his – also cheapens the truth. While, tragically, this is war, we believe it is possible to retain our humanity even during war – maybe even especially during war. On October 7, Hamas failed to retain its humanity. We recognize that Hamas is not the Palestinian people. While we may want to eradicate terrorism, we want the Palestinian people to thrive.

We only have hopes for peace if we can make peace ourselves, wherever we are – starting here, on 24th Street. Here, in our neighborhood, let's please call for care, for truth, and – when we have it available to us – even love toward each other.

Yours,

Some of your Jewish neighbors

*This is based on a letter from November 4, 2023 in response to a mural on 24th Street and we've now updated it as events have unfolded.*







**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**

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 www.noevalleyvoice.com

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**THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN**

*Christmas Eve at Best Cleaners on 24th Street*



**LETTERS  
 66 CENTS**

**Yay, Yay, Yay!**

Editor:

Thank you so very much for all the support in the October 2023 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

I really appreciated the picture [of a firefighter climbing up the Bethany Church steeple] on the front page. The articles about Slow Sanchez and James Lick Middle School were wonderful too! Such community...yay, yay, yay!

Steve Wereb

**Swimming Upstream**

Editor:

Thank you for the amazing coverage of the Dolphin Club's English Channel swim! ["John Hornor Gets Wet and Goes the Distance," November 2023 *Voice*]. In appreciation,

Sandra Halladey

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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



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## Happy Holidays from the Droubi Team!

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If you would like more information about these organizations, please visit our website. [DroubiTeam.com](http://DroubiTeam.com)

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— Christopher Marley

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

## Kind Words from Happy Noe Valley Clients!

“Just wanted to let you know that we think you did a fabulous job selling our daughter and son-in-law’s condo in Noe Valley. It seems like you work so much harder than the agents we know in the Maryland area where we live. It was fun to help our family get the condo ready to sell and then you took over and sold the condo in record time. Great job!”

— Lynda D. —

“Danielle represented us on both sides of our recent property transactions and we couldn’t be happier with her high level of service. She’s tuned into the macro factors affecting the residential space and really has her finger on the pulse of local dynamics (SF neighborhoods, property type supply/demand, buyer demographics, etc.). Most importantly, Danielle applied her broad knowledge to our unique needs. She was able to gauge our desires and concerns and then create a plan to satisfy them. She guided us through some very choppy waters (both personal anxieties and a shifting credit/finance market) with patience and tact. She’s direct, efficient, and driven by solutions. For us, Danielle solidified her reputation as a trusted advisor and should be recognized for her sensitivity, diligence and proven skills. (PS. Her marketing prowess is impressive—our condo brought in 8 offers and sold for more than 13% over list price.)”

— Roxanne & Neil —



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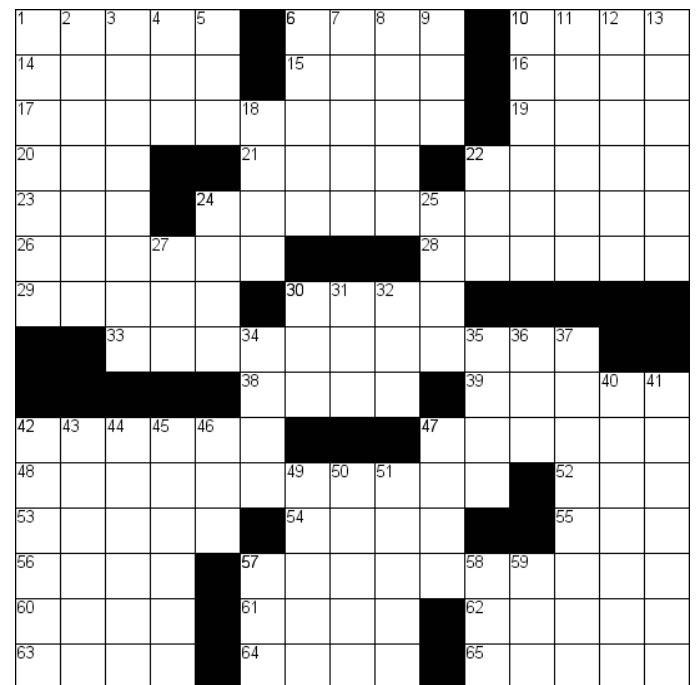
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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Speed Trap

#### ACROSS

1. Kyoto’s country
6. “Didn’t see ya there!”
10. Dog-tail movements
14. Justice Samuel
15. Terror
16. Dublin’s land
17. Thoroughfare where 3-toed critters roam?
19. Farm product
20. Tues. preceder
21. “Gone With the Wind” estate
22. “\_\_\_ Mia!”
23. “\_\_\_ got it!”
24. Thoroughfare where you may see Dr. Seuss’s Yertle?
26. Liam of “Schindler’s List”
28. FBI employees
29. Mistake
30. “Sad to say. . .”
33. Sanchez in Noe Valley, and others—and the theme of this puzzle
38. Conceal
39. “No man is a hero \_\_\_ valet”
42. Kind of machine at the old Fit-Lite
47. Singer Grande with the #1 album “Yours Truly”
48. Slimy thoroughfare?
52. Image resolution measure
53. “\_\_\_ Gabler” (Ibsen play)
54. Abruptly fired
55. Hardly fresh
56. Surrounded by
57. Icy thoroughfare?
60. Money in Teheran
61. Quacker
62. Pizza serving



63. Ashen
64. Animal friends
65. Chile’s range

#### DOWN

1. \_\_\_ Garden: Pho place near Safeway on Church
2. Here, there and everywhere
3. Trailblazers
4. Communications giant
5. Japanese dance-drama
6. Sun Tzu’s “The Art \_\_\_”
7. Soul mate?
8. Islamic equivalent of kosher
9. Annoy
10. “You are important to us,” in adpeak
11. Rank in the U.S. Air Force
12. Wallace’s partner, in claymation
13. Calyx components
18. “Star Trek” phaser setting
22. Conference rm. event
24. Lawn Boy competitor
25. “\_\_\_ up!”: calm down
27. Note before la
30. “\_\_\_ was saying...”
31. Inc.’s kin
32. “Chances \_\_\_” (Johnny Mathis hit)
34. “Halt, horsey!”
35. Raison d’\_\_\_
36. A \_\_\_ (yours, in French)
37. Followed stealthily
40. Shelter \_\_\_: Early pandemic order
41. Assented
42. D flat’s equivalent
43. Iron-poor blood condition
44. Kind of tire or saw
45. Word said twice before “The cat and the fiddle”
46. Stevedores’ gp.
47. Car with a four-ring logo
49. Cherish
50. Precise
51. Guitar parts
57. Meas. of a country’s economic output
58. Air-quality agency: Abbr.
59. “\_\_\_ Tin Tin”

**Solution on Page 21**  
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## It's Noe Valley For The Holidays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will bring its apothecary and pantry collection to the shop. Jams, shrubs, soaps, and bath salts are all produced on the farm in Glen Ellen.

### Make Your Own Gifts

You can learn how to make hand-painted mini canvas ornaments with Elizabeth Dekker at Art Haus, 3977 24th St., on both Saturday, Dec. 9 and 16. The workshop, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is open to all ages; price is \$50. Contact Dekker by email at [info@arthaus.com](mailto:info@arthaus.com).

Or you can trot up to Castro and 24th Street to Terra Mia Ceramic Studio and try your hand at painting ceramic tree ornaments. You paint and they fire your handiwork; their website has details: [terramiaceramicstudio.com](http://terramiaceramicstudio.com).

### Sing Along at the Town Square

Musical events abound, starting with the Tree Lighting at the Noe Valley Town Square on Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a chance to belt out traditional carols led by female a cappella group the Loosies. "It has such a lovely feeling of a small town, never more so than when the lights are lit," says square manager Leslie Crawford. "It's a holiday spirit without snow."

Tuba Christmas is coming your way on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 3 p.m., also at the Town Square, with their unique "low brass" take on holiday favorites. The group of community musicians plays tuba, euphonium, and other large instruments.

And on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m., our very own Farmers Market, will celebrate 20 years with a rousing chorus of happy birthday, cake from Noe Valley Bakery, and cider. Says Crawford, "I never imagined this would be a 20-year endeavor!"

### Treasure Hunt on 24th

Noe Valley kids won't want to miss the Annual 24 Holidays Treasure Hunt, also on Saturday, Dec. 16, sponsored by Mapamundi Kids, 1306 Castro St., and the Rabbit Hole Theater on Diamond Street. Many Noe Valley merchants have donated prizes for the event, which kicks off at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St., at 10:30 a.m. and runs to 12:30 p.m.

### Eat the Treats

Birch and Rye ([birchandryes.com](http://birchandryes.com)), at 1320 Castro, is offering its own holiday version of "happy hour" with caviar and champagne every Wednesday and Thursday in December from 5 to 6 p.m. A "special visitor from the North Pole" will be attending the Family Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And look ahead to New Year's Eve, when the restaurant promises a "caviar-centric" celebration for \$175.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, Olive This Olive That, at 304 Vicksburg, will be hosting a Holiday Happy Hour and Marketplace from 4 to 7 p.m. You know the shop's olive oils are tasty. Now you can sip hot mulled wine and cider, snacks, and meet "special guests."

### Menorah Lighting

A beautiful part of the holiday spirit at the Town Square is the almost nightly lighting of the giant menorah, at 5:15 p.m. to celebrate Chanukah. This year, as every year, Chabad of Noe Valley hosts its Chanukah Glow in Dark celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., when the giant menorah will be lit in the Town Square. With



Walking Guests enjoyed the Labyrinth Walk at the Noe Valley Ministry in this photo from June of this year.

Photo by Ana Eisner

music and live entertainment, arts and crafts, dreidels, and a Gelt Drop, the event promises fun for all ages. In keeping with the eight-night tradition of Chanukah, there will also be lighting on the nights of Dec. 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14 at 5:15 p.m.

### Wander a Sacred Path

Looking for space and stillness amidst all the bustle? The monthly labyrinth walk, coming up on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., may be just what you need. Curator Ana Eisner reminds us, "The holiday season is stressful. We get caught up in the hype. A walking meditation can help to redirect our focus." She adds, "I open the door to a tranquil, beautiful, neutral space... The event is not linked to any type of belief system. Folks can come to sit or move about in silent fellowship."

### Bells Peal, Kids Sing

Bethany Methodist Church at 1270 Sanchez St. and the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church at 1021 Sanchez St. are the venues for all kinds of holiday events.

Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Bell Appeal handbell choir will make a joyful noise at Bethany. "We are not your mama's handbell choir," the group proclaims. Imagine ding-donging out "Feeling Good" as performed by Michael Buble! The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$15, a portion of which will benefit Casa de Las Madres.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 a.m., Hola Kids! in partnership with the Ministry will present a singalong Charlie Brown's Christmas. The Jeffrey Chin Trio provides the music for this jazzy beloved story. You'll get a chance to sing along in Spanish language carols. And afterwards, you can try out yummy toppings and cookies at the Cocoa Bar. Be sure to wear your seasonal PJs or a holiday costume. Admission is free with donations accepted. And you can give a present to [carecen.org](http://carecen.org) in the form of new unwrapped PJs for infants or toddlers or a gently used book.

And finally, Sunday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m., Lieder Alive returns to the Ministry with mezzo-soprano Alice Chung, pianist Peter Grunberg, and violist Paul Yarbrough for a concert of Brahms, Berlioz, and Mahler.

### Christmas Eve

All the local churches offer Christmas Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 24. Bethany has a family-friendly service at 4 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by a service of lessons and carols. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, just down the hill at 455 Fair Oaks St., promises a Christmas Pageant and Communion for all ages from 5 to 7 p.m.

And for those who find the holidays a difficult time, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, up at 101 Gold Mine Drive in Diamond Heights offers a Blue Christmas service on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17, at 1:30 p.m. Their Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. features storytelling and carols.

At Noe Valley Ministry, the service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve is "always spectacular," says the Reverend Carmen Mason-Browne, pastor. "There is a lot of fascination about the evocative story of God showing up as a baby to the most unlikely couple. I love when the kids come up, full of wonder, to see the display of Christmas creches [also known as manger scenes]," said Mason-Browne.

Music director Dara Phung says the Ministry choir will be joined by voices from the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the San Francisco Choral Society, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Choral Arts Society of Washington, accompanied by four-hand piano, at the special service.

Christmas Day is Monday this year. You can always be a little international and celebrate Boxing Day on Tuesday, the 26th or Twelfth Night on Saturday, Jan. 6, when those wise men finally got to Bethlehem. Or you can dust off the artificial snow, take down the lights and revel in the fact that we have all survived another holiday season.

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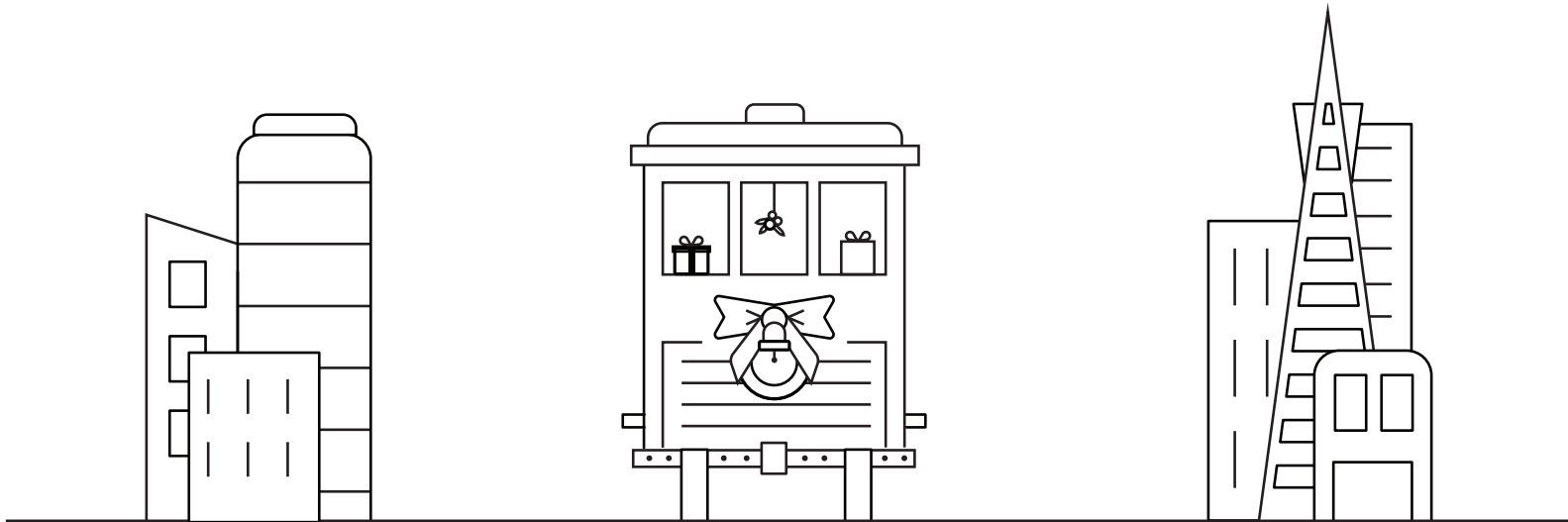
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## Farmers Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Far West Fungi stand. “It is just a delight to have people know you and know what you want.” Another selling point, said Anderson, is the group of neighborhood volunteers who serve on the board that runs the market, as well as its one paid employee, Elizabeth Crane, who has been the market’s manager from its launch. “I think its charm is it is a group of people who make it happen every Saturday morning who are very special. Elizabeth is a force for good,” said Anderson.

Crane, who used to live on Eureka Street and raised her sons at the market, told the Voice a lot of work happens behind the scenes to ensure the market runs smoothly each Saturday. She now works with two paid interns, who are local high school students hired each year to help pull it off.

“The joke is we make it look easy. It is not. It is a lot of work with a lot of moving parts,” said Crane, who now lives near Bernal Heights and works for the online publisher Vox. “We can’t exist without the customers, and customers can’t shop without the produce. There is a nice symbiosis going on.” Nearly every Saturday since Dec. 6, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Noe Valley Farmers Market has set up shop at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets. To celebrate its 20th anniversary, there will be a short ceremony at 11 a.m. on Dec. 16 followed by cake.

The market will be unveiling its new logo that Saturday, which will be on merchandise for sale. It will also be the last market to be held in 2023, as it is taking off the rest of the month due to the last two Saturdays coming so close to Christmas and New Year’s.

“When we started the market, we did something we didn’t know we couldn’t do,” said Leslie Crawford, a co-founder of the market who serves on its board.

### Forged Out of Protest

The market came to be as a response to neighborhood outrage at seeing the Real Food Company over Labor Day Weekend in 2003 shutter its 24th Street location in order to thwart an effort by the employees there to form a union. Almost immediately that September, local residents hit upon the idea of creating a farmers market, so that residents and merchants would have an alternative place to shop for fresh produce during the organic grocery’s shutdown. “I don’t think any of us imagined it would be here 20 years later,” said Crawford. “It seemed like a crazy thing to do, but then we thought Real Food’s would open again and there wouldn’t be a need for it. Yet it stayed shuttered forever.”

Having a farmers market was first broached at a crowded community meeting—250 people came—to discuss the sudden closure of the store. Crawford had approached Peter Gabel, a progressive activist who died last year, to help organize the neighborhood response. The pair became leading proponents of the idea for the farmers market.

“A lot of people don’t know the market came out of a protest to fight for social justice because we were fighting this corporate anti-union campaign,” noted Crawford. “It was formed out of a principle.”

Within three months, they had the city permits they needed to open the market



On Saturdays, the Noe Valley Town Square is a place to gather for music as well as fresh produce.

Photo by Kent Wisner

on what had been a parking lot owned by the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church. An early supporter was former city supervisor Bevan Dufty. Dufty’s office helped the Noe Valley neighbors navigate the bureaucratic process at City Hall. “We were in a very difficult situation because Nutraceutical had undertaken some illegal union-busting activities and shuttered the store on 24th Street. It was a huge hit on the neighborhood, no two ways about it,” said Dufty, referring to the Utah vitamin company that was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board in 2009 to pay the workers at the store \$371,219. “What was so impressive is that hundreds of people were turning out to community meetings to determine what do we do.”

### A Bronze Plaque Tribute

Lisa Jaicks, a union organizer who was partners with Gabel for 35 years, told the Voice Gabel had taken the lessons he learned from fighting the closure of a local bookstore years prior to frame the response to the Real Food controversy. She noted he devised a multi-pronged approach that not only resulted in the birth of the farmers market but also neighbors’ involvement with the proceedings before the NLRB.

“In his mind, something had to be done to support the workers, and he wanted to do something positive to help the neighborhood,” said Jaicks, who first moved to Noe Valley in the late 1970s and moved back to it nearly three decades ago with Gabel.

Gabel would credit the farmers market’s longevity, said Jaicks, to the community’s support for and ongoing patronage of both the vendors and the residents volunteering on its board. That spirit of community could be seen in the efforts the market organizers took to keep it going during the Covid pandemic, instituting measures like mask-wearing and social-distancing rules to ensure the safety of both the sellers and the shoppers, noted Jaicks.

She also pointed to Gabel’s suggestion the market help feed local children who could no longer receive free meals at their schools during the early years of the health crisis. The market continues to this day to raise funds to feed 90 families in need by buying food from the vendors, said Jaicks.

The market has also gained notoriety for its music program, even producing a CD released in 2011 that featured various bands that had performed there. Several of the musical groups formed by local teens showcased at the market went on to find commercial success, like the all-girl group The She’s.

“Several of the musicians got their start here and became famous,” said Jaicks. Noe Valley resident Regina Starr

Ridley, a 10-year market board member, also credits Gabel, not only for planting the seeds for the market but also for helping to sustain its uniqueness as a small, not-for-profit entity. “It is now beloved and a part of what makes Noe Valley a special place,” she said. “It goes back to Peter.” To permanently honor Gabel, the market board is raising \$7,500 to install a bronze plaque in the sidewalk where he would stand each Saturday and welcome people to the market. Donations can be made online via the Arlene Francis Foundation at [www.arlenefranciscenter.org/support](http://www.arlenefranciscenter.org/support) and should be earmarked for “Noe.”

“It is so profoundly beautiful, and I am so appreciative. I think Peter would be incredibly touched,” said Jaicks. “It is another example of creating a positive out of a negative.”

### Vendors Like Family

The “negative” during the market’s first few years was that its permanence on 24th Street was not guaranteed. The Noe Valley Ministry needed to sell the parking lot to pay for repairs to its Sanchez Street building. However, market founders joined hands with city and neighborhood leaders to launch a fundraising campaign to buy the property and turn it into a neighborhood park called the Noe Valley Town Square. In 2013 the city acquired the site for \$4.2 million.

Sharon Dinkin told the Voice she couldn’t imagine doing without the farmers market. For 18 years her Saturday routine has included stopping by it to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables. Even after moving to Colma shortly after becoming a market regular, Dinkin continues to patronize the produce vendors who set up shop in the neighborhood on a weekly basis.

“I come because I am a food person and I happened to see it one day,” Dinkin said while making her market rounds the morning of Nov. 11. “It is a lot more manageable because of its

size. You don’t have 70 people all selling strawberries.”

Using persimmons and other ingredients she bought at the market, Dinkin in 2009 took home first-place honors for her Persimmon Custard in the bake-off contest the market held that fall.

“If you haven’t been down here, there is no excuse not to come, none,” Dinkin said.

She has become friendly with the Egoian family from whom she buys the persimmons. They work for Twin Girls Farm. Each week, Jim and Carol Egoian, along with their son, Cole, drive in from Reedly, Calif., near Fresno to sell various fruits at the Noe Valley market.

They like how the market continues to be run by volunteers from the neighborhood, said Cole Egoian, as it makes it “much more personal.”

He started helping out at the market at age 10, along with his older brother James. Tragically, James was killed in a car accident on Dec. 6, 2008, at the age of 17.

“People from the market came to the funeral to support us. They really rallied around us,” recalled Cole Egoian. During the month the family took off from running the stand at the market, customers continued to inquire about them with the workers who substituted for them, he told the Voice. Even as their regular customers have moved away over the years, they quickly strike up friendships with new shoppers.

“It’s an amazing place,” Cole Egoian said of the neighborhood. “We have seen a lot of change over the years but still have seen a lot of things stay the same. There is a comfort in that.”

His father, Jimmy Egoian, said the economics of participating in farmers markets could be a hardship for many vendors, due to the markets’ proliferation in the city, increasing competition and decreasing sales. Plus, the cost of labor has risen, he noted, adding to Twin Girls’ decision to cut back to selling at just two markets.

It never considered pulling out from the Noe Valley market, Egoian told the Voice as he restocked apples for the farms’ customers at the market that coincided with Veterans Day in November.

“This is not clearly the biggest market in terms of economy, but Noe Valley is an amazing place,” said Egoian.

Crane, who used to sell peaches for a vendor at other markets in the city, said having the weekly market to manage was a saving grace for her during the pandemic. It allowed her a chance to leave her home, something many shoppers remarked on as well, she said. “The community was so grateful and still is,” said Crane.

To those who have yet to check out the market, Crane has a simple request. “Support your community and come out to shop. We are here for you,” she said.

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Sunday December 24, 10:00 am

**Christmas Eve Service and Children's Pageant**  
Sunday December 24, 5:00 pm

**Christmas Eve service with Festal choir and carols**  
Sunday December 24, 10:00 pm

**Feast of the Holy Innocents**  
Sunday December 31 10:00 am

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1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd 415-282-2317  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Carmen Mason Browne, Transitional Pastor

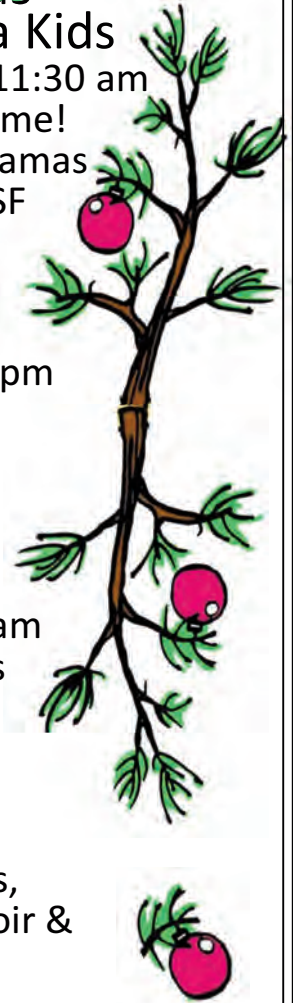
**Charlie Brown Christmas Pajama Party with Hola Kids**  
Saturday, December 9, 10 – 11:30 am  
Children and Families Welcome!  
Bring Children's Books & Pajamas  
For Donation to CARECEN SF

**Labyrinth Walk**  
Thursday, December 14, 6:30 pm  
A Silent Celebration  
by Candlelight

**Christmas Sing-along**  
Sunday, December 17, 10:30 am  
Sacred and Secular Favorites

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Sunday, December 24, 5 pm  
Service of Lessons and Carols,  
With Noe Valley Ministry Choir &  
Guest Musicians

Find the livestream links on our website! [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org)  
Noe Valley Ministry is an Inclusive Church, Welcoming to All



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### Christmas Services:

**Blue Christmas, December 17** at 1:30 pm  
For those who struggle at Christmastime

**Christmas Eve, December 24**  
Storytelling & Carols at 5:00 pm  
Child care available

**Christmas Day, December 25** at 9:00 am

### Weekly Services:

**Sundays** at 8:00 am and 10:00 am  
Child care available at 10:00

**Wednesday Evening Prayer** at 6:30 pm \*

**Morning Prayer**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday \* at 7:30 am

**Contemplative Prayer**  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday at 9:00 am \*

Christmas & Sunday services are both in person and online,  
along with Monday & Wednesday Morning Prayer.

\* Services with asterisks are online only.

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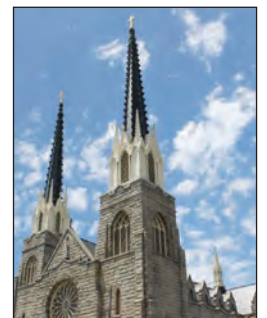
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## St. Paul's Catholic Church



### Christmas Schedule 2023 – January 1, 2024

**Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023:**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)  
3:30- 4:30 PM in the church, or by appointment

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023:**  
4th Sunday in Advent Masses  
8:00 AM and 9:15 AM

**Christmas Eve Mass**  
4:30 PM Vigil for Christmas and Children's Pageant

**Monday, December 25:**  
Christmas Day Masses  
8:00 AM and 9:15 AM

**Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023:**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)  
3:30- 4:30 PM in the church, or by appointment

Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
4:30 PM

**Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023:**  
Feast of the Holy Family Masses  
8:00 AM and 9:15 AM

**Monday, January 1, 2024:**  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass  
9:15 AM

### St. Paul's Catholic Church

221 Valley Street at Church Street • San Francisco



## Lyon Martin Home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their home in Noe Valley, surrounded by a vacant garden plot, up for sale three years ago.

Paul McKeown and his wife, Meredith Jones-McKeown, bought the house and land for \$2.25 million with the intention of building a new home on the site for their family.

### The Cottage Is the Landmark

News of the sale prompted preservationists and LGBTQ historians to work with District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who represents Noe Valley, to ask the city to name the property a local landmark. The Board of Supervisors approved doing so in May of 2021.

But, at the request of the property owners, the landmark designation included only the cottage. The decision paved the way for the new owners to construct their residence on the vacant section of the hillside parcel next to the Lyon-Martin home.

They offered to sell the existing building to the Friends of the Lyon-Martin House for \$1.2 million, according to Shayne Watson, a lesbian and architectural historian who co-founded the group. Earlier this year, the Friends held a charrette inside the home to discuss its future usage, such as a home museum people could visit on a limited basis or use as an artist- or activist-in-residence program.

The Friends had announced its desire to buy it in April on its Instagram page. But, as the Bay Area Reporter first reported, Watson in early October informed the McKeowns that the group had been unable to raise the money needed to buy the Lyon-Martin house. "Without the funds to acquire the property, and the longer the landmark is allowed to decay, the future of the Lyon-Martin House is uncertain," said Watson.

She expects it will be put back on the market for sale. Whoever does buy the home hopefully will be committed to its preservation, added Watson. "We want it to go to someone in the community," she said.

### It Could Be a Private Home

Mandelman said it was "unfortunate" that the Friends group had not been able to buy the historic structure, which is San Francisco's 292nd city landmark. "It is good the building is still there and it is protected in as far as you can protect something with a landmark designation," he said. "It is disappointing they were not able to come up with the money to ensure it would be operated by a nonprofit committed to the mission of preserving Del and Phyllis' memory."

Even though it has landmark status, the house can still be acquired for use as a private residence. Should someone purchase it to be their home, Mandelman hopes they honor its legacy as an important LGBTQ site.

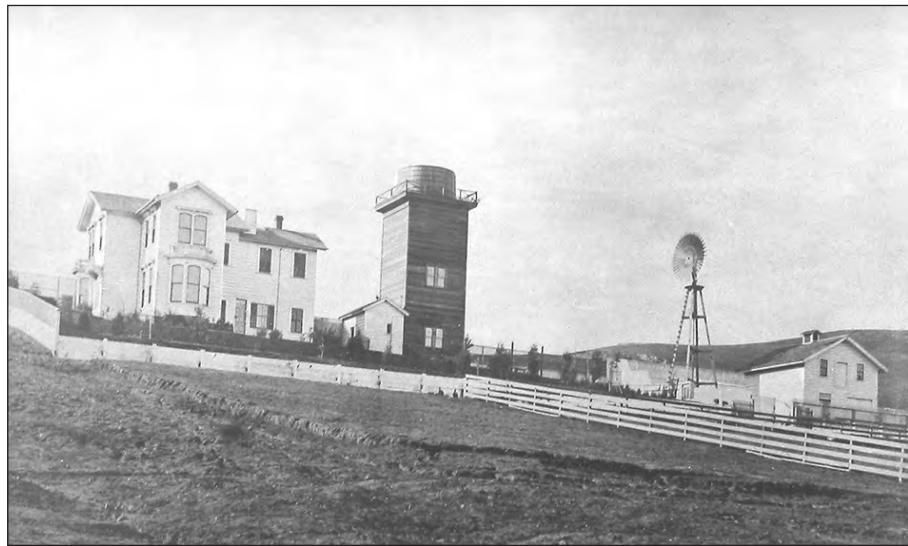
"A great outcome would be for it to be a museum or some nonprofit-owned resource. If a private owner wants to own it and use it in a way consistent with its landmark status, I think it is a very good next best option," he said.

### Owners May Build

The McKeowns have not disclosed what their plans are in regard to the Lyon-Martin House. Earlier this year, they received permission from the city's planning department to build a four-story, single-family dwelling over a garage with a basement that will have 649 Duncan Street as its address.

"No further environmental review is required," wrote senior environmental planner Don Lewis in his determination, dated Jan. 17, that the project was exempt under the state's California Environmental Quality Act. "There are no unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility of a significant effect ... Building permit approved."

To date, no work has been done at the property. A visit to the site Oct. 19 found the yard to be overgrown with vegetation and no sign that any construction would soon commence.



In "On the Trail of Noe Valley's Oldest House" and "Oldest House II," published in the May and June 1983 issues, Noe Valley Voice writer and historian Larry Beresford theorized that the oldest surviving house in Noe Valley was the former Girot home at 3780 23rd Street.

## Free Noe Valley Walking Tour Returns in January

By Michael Blake

The popular Noe Valley walking tour, one of 80 free tours offered by San Francisco City Guides, is coming back on Saturday, Jan. 20, after an absence of nearly three years.

The tour, "Noe Valley: Village Within a City," begins at 2 p.m. in front of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St., and ends at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. Learning the answers to questions such as "Who was Sally Brunn?" and "What was the role of robber baron Andrew Carnegie in Noe Valley?", walkers will start from the library and get a graduate education in Victorian and Edwardian architecture, along with numerous tidbits about the unique nature of Noe Valley within San Francisco.

Given real estate prices today, it may be surprising to learn of the working-class roots of this corner of the city—how it came into existence as Horner's Addition and evolved into a distinct neighborhood with affordable homes going for \$750 in the late 1800s, compared with \$3,000 elsewhere in the city. Trivia buffs will find plenty to love, such as where the first automobile in the West got built, and how its builders had to take out a wall to get the car out of the house. The tour will run one and a half to two hours and is mostly flat or downhill.

The Noe Valley walking tour, which began in 2008 and once ran twice a month, was last given in 2021, coming to a stop with the pandemic. Now,

Cathie and Paul Staley, both veteran San Francisco City Guides leading other tours, have decided to revive and update the tour.

The Staleys have a soft spot in their hearts for Noe Valley, their home for more than 35 years. "We're excited about bringing this tour back," said Cathie Staley. "We've inherited the records of the old tour, and there is so much that is new that we plan to add. There's the evolution of the Town Square, for example, and we plan to tell the whole story of its famous \$1.7 million toilet."

San Francisco City Guides is a nonprofit that has been leading free walking tours for more than 45 years. Guides like Cathie and Paul Staley are unpaid volunteers. They don't even take tips. Walkers are encouraged but not required to make a donation at the end of a tour to support City Guides' ongoing expenses and the development of new tours.

To see the schedule and sign up for the Noe Valley tour or any of the many tours given daily around San Francisco, go to [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org).



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Send an email to [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your name. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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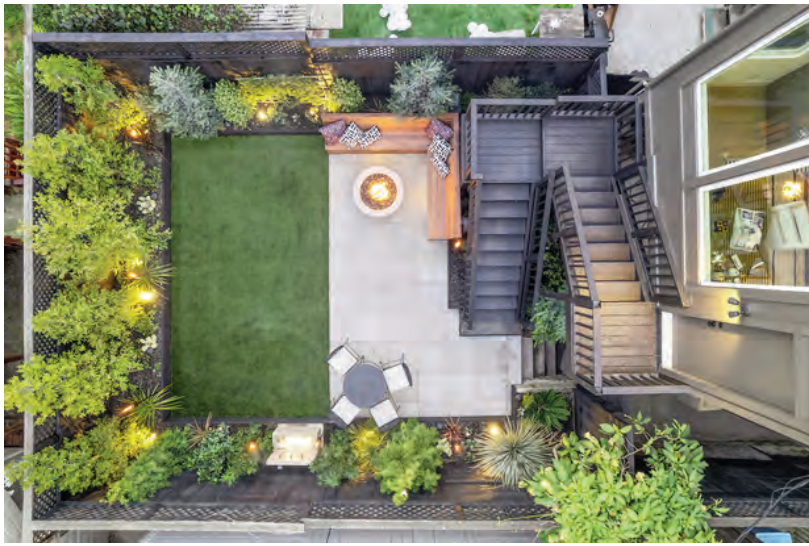
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## 3428 22nd St | Noe Valley

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Welcome to this historic townhome by Henry Bestor. Sophistication and luxury combined to create this urban, entertainer's dream - a visual masterpiece that was rebuilt from the ground up and finished in 2022. Framed by 3 bedrooms, 2 designer bathrooms and impeccable finishes, the custom design throughout really shines. From the wide plank European White Oak flooring to the handsome custom walnut cabinetry, no expense was spared during the renovation. The fully equipped kitchen features Thermador throughout, with custom dining built-in's for guests, and plenty of space for all your dinner parties. Eleven foot ceilings, vintage details and multiple skylights allow for incredible light and accentuate the flow. This luxe residence also allows for indoor outdoor living and dining al fresco with two shared decks. 2 car parking, room for a gym, yoga attic and so much more! A+ location within moments of shopping, cafes, parks, MUNI, FWY and all that the Noe and Valencia corridor has to offer!



## 4258 26th St | Noe Valley

**5 BED | 4.5 BATH | \$5,495,000**

This entertainer's oasis boasts modern architecture, panoramic views, incredible ceiling height and luxury indoor/outdoor living. The generous glass-lined great room has a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access. Sunrises and sunsets are truly incredible from this vantage point! The kitchen is the heart of it all and flows seamlessly to the living and dining areas, and features built-in luxury appliances. The den has pocket doors that convert the room to a guest bedroom for extra guests. A full bath completes this amazing living level. The bedroom level boasts three bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, and private exterior entrance. The opulent primary suite extends over the full width of the residence and features a relaxing ensuite bathroom and a generous deck. The lower level has a spacious media lounge, glass wine vault, two additional bedrooms and baths, and direct access to the backyard. Located a few blocks to coveted Noe Valley's bustling 24th Street, parks and shops!

## 300 Berry St #618 | Mission Bay

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VODKA & LATKES - DECEMBER 10 | 4-6PM  
FOLLOWED BY NOE VALLEY TOWN SQUARE HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

PHOTOS WITH SANTA - DECEMBER 16 | 10AM-1PM

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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## People Buy Houses and Flats. No Kidding

By Corrie M. Anders

After a lackluster summer and fall, residential sales perked up in October as Noe Valley buyers splurged both on expensive houses and more affordable two- and three-unit buildings (also called flats).

Eight single-family detached homes closed escrow in October, including one for \$7 million and another for \$5 million (less one dollar), according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

The higher-end properties boosted the average sale price of a single-family home in Noe Valley to \$3.6 million, compared to a \$2.5 million average for the same number of properties in October of last year.

Buyers also picked up door keys to eight condominiums, including a luxury unit selling for close to \$4 million. That lifted the average condo price to \$1.9 million. In October 2022, the number was \$1.7 million.

The month's biggest surprise, however, was the increase in sales of flats. Shoppers purchased nine of the small buildings, which matched sales back in July 2019, when the neighborhood's real estate market was still buzzing.



A buyer paid \$7 million for this renovated 1907 Edwardian on 23rd Street. The home has six bedrooms, six baths, a wine cellar, an in-law unit, and two bay view balconies.

Seven of the nine were two-unit buildings, and the rest were three.

Overall, the sales represented a rebound after a months-long decline in activity caused by hikes in mortgage interest rates.

Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick said mortgage lenders had been finding creative ways to stimulate sales.

"I think buyers are hearing from lenders to go ahead and take the high interest rate and we'll refinance later," when rates move lower.

The two-unit buildings were "obviously very popular for partners," Kostick said, referring to buyers who purchase a property but live separately as tenants in common.

Sharing a two-unit building with a \$1.8 million price tag, for example, would cost partners approximately \$900,000 each. That's considerably cheaper than a detached home or condominium.

The neighborhood's most expensive "single-family" home sale in October was a capacious (5,276 sq. ft.) Edwardian home in the 4000 block of 23rd Street, between Castro and Noe streets. After 27 days on the market, it was grateful for a \$7 million offer—12.4 percent below its asking price (\$7,995,000).

The 1907 home had been extensively remodeled in 2015. Two balconies with bay views, a chef's kitchen, two gas fireplaces, skylights, a wine cellar, and a two-vehicle garage with EV-charging now complement the home's six bedrooms (six baths), including a primary suite that takes up an entire floor. There is also a legal in-law unit.

Noe Valley's next costliest home was a four-bedroom, five-bath residence in

the 2200 block of Castro Street, between 29th and Valley streets. The buyer paid \$4,999,999 for the house, which was originally built in 1912. Modern amenities included a gourmet kitchen with a walk-in pantry and a large center island in the living/dining area, radiant heating, decks, and one-car parking.

A buyer paid \$3,850,000 for Noe Valley's priciest condo. Still, they may have patted themselves on the back,

since they paid 3.6 percent beneath the seller's asking price (\$3,995,000).

Located on the top floor of a two-unit building erected in 2010 in the 4000 block of Elizabeth Street between Noe and Sanchez streets, the three-bedroom, three-bath residence offered 3,113 square feet of living space. It also featured a top-of-the-line kitchen, a wet bar, floor-to-ceiling glass, radiant heat, a private roof deck, and an elevator. There was parking for two cars. ■

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
October 2023	8	\$975,000	\$7,000,000	\$3,616,250	14	105%
September 2023	3	\$1,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$2,596,667	74	105%
October 2022	8	\$1,600,000	\$4,712,500	\$2,495,813	13	106%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
October 2023	8	\$775,000	\$3,850,000	\$1,942,625	44	103%
September 2023	5	\$1,050,000	\$3,490,000	\$1,588,000	26	102%
October 2022	11	\$918,000	\$2,300,000	\$1,669,636	24	100%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
October 2023	9	\$1,200,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,836,111	54	101%
September 2023	2	\$2,100,000	\$2,504,000	\$2,302,000	26	99%
October 2022	4	\$1,300,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,050,000	110	98%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
October 2023	1	\$1,925,000	\$1,925,000	\$1,925,000	102	92%
September 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
October 2022	1	\$2,310,500	\$2,310,500	\$2,310,500	82	122%

\*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 Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV12/2023



The top-floor condominium in this distinctive modern building on Elizabeth Street sold in October for \$3,850,000. The residence featured three bedrooms, a chef's kitchen, and a private roof deck.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2023	Average November 2023	Average October 2023	Average November 2022
Studio	9	\$1,700 – \$2,500	\$2,269 / mo.	\$2,384 / mo.	\$2,329 / mo.
1-bdrm	41	\$2,250 – \$4,695	\$3,025 / mo.	\$3,117 / mo.	\$2,982 / mo.
2-bdrm	46	\$2,900 – \$5,900	\$4,055 / mo.	\$4,534 / mo.	\$4,175 / mo.
3-bdrm	17	\$3,000 – \$11,250	\$5,855 / mo.	\$6,196 / mo.	\$6,558 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$4,700 – \$14,095	\$7,431 / mo.	\$9,797 / mo.	\$9,718 / mo.

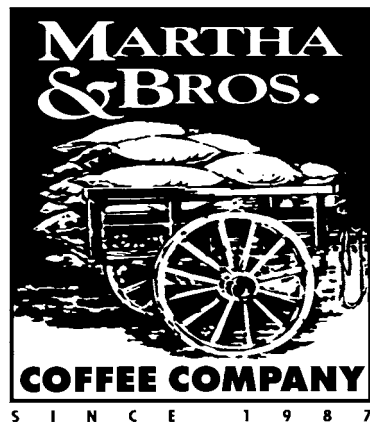
\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 119 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Oct. 14 to Nov. 10, 2023. In November 2022, there were a total of 165 listings. NVV12/2023



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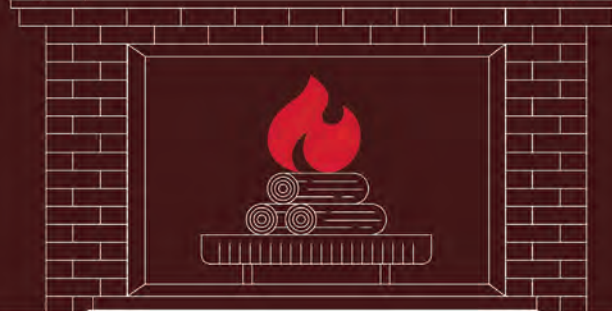
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# STORE TREK

*Store Trek is a regular Voice column introducing new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we show off a vintage clothing store on 24th Street with several familiar faces.*

## LOVED AGAIN

4068 24th Street  
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When Gilbertina and Bruno Guarini made the decision to shutter Quoio after being business owners in Noe Valley for two dozen years, the couple expected to focus on their retirement and do some traveling. Having delayed doing so for years, they said farewell to the last customers of their jewelry store in September of 2022.

But there they were two months later welcoming shoppers back into the storefront at 4068 24th St., near Castro Street. The reason? Their daughters, Kirsten and Natalie Guarini, had decided to open a consignment shop, Loved Again, in the space.

As his mother had done when he and his wife first remodeled the space two decades ago—helping her son to install its distinctive brick floor—Bruno Guarini helped his daughters refashion the space in time to open the clothing store on Nov. 25 last year. It was the Black Friday shopping day after Thanksgiving, which kicks off the important holiday shopping season for retailers.

“I am 62. I was ready to retire, but it’s all good,” Bruno Guarini told the Voice in mid-November, as the family prepared for this year’s Black Friday event and to mark the store’s one-year anniversary.

Having the store open last year before December was important, said Kirsten Guarini, so residents of the neighborhood had a reason to stay in Noe Valley and shop locally, rather than heading downtown to the city’s shopping district in Union Square.

“We wanted to try to keep people in the neighborhood,” she said.

Seeing the shift in the business scene along 24th Street, with retail stores like the ones their parents had owned closing down during the pandemic, “kind of bummed us out,” she added.

The sisters spent their childhoods in their parents’ stores. The Guarinis had first opened the Asian-art store Detour in a basement space at 3961 24th St. 24 years ago, then renamed it Quoio (pronounced “Coy-yo”) in a nod to Guatemala, where Gilbertina was born.

They then opened the second location down the street, using its backyard garden as part of the shop. Bruno Guarini is now remodeling the garden area with an eye toward seeing his daughters utilize it for their business by next summer.

“Me and my sister grew up in this neighborhood since we were tiny,” said Kirsten Guarini, whose family now all lives in Bernal Heights.

The siblings figured there would be plenty of people in Noe Valley with stuffed closets of clothing they would likely want to pare down. Rather than recycle their clothing some other way, they could bring it to Loved Again to be resold.

“I knew a lot of people here have a lot of clothing and a lot of nice cloth-



Gilbertina Guarini and daughter Kristen invite you to take advantage of the fabulous finds at Loved Again.

Photo by Art Bodner

ing. Why not use that?” said Kirsten.

Customers are welcome to bring in their items whenever the store is open, though most people will stop by first to discuss with the sisters if they would be interested in the clothing.

“Right now, we are looking for sweaters, coats, cashmere. People love cashmere, so that is a big one,” said Kirsten. “We carry more dresses in the spring and summer.”

While most of the store is devoted to women’s clothing, there is a section of men’s clothing. Jeans are priced \$29 to as much as \$99, depending on the brand and quality, with dresses costing from \$59 to \$95. Men’s shirts begin at \$29 and sweaters at \$39.

Women’s knit sweaters range in price from \$49 to \$69.

One surprise has been how many people come in looking for shoes and bags, Kirsten Guarini told the Voice. The pricing varies depending on the styles and brands.

“More than I thought would,” she said. “I think [it’s] because a lot of shoe stores in the neighborhood are now gone.”

Her sister Natalie Guarini has been procuring ugly Christmas sweaters to sell this December. The store would welcome cufflinks to sell on consignment, and also hope to stock more dressy clothing to meet people’s holiday party needs.

“Items with a lot of sparkle or glitzy kinds of things,” said Kirsten Guarini.

They also sell their mom’s jewelry, handcrafted with corals, pearls, and semiprecious stones. (Gilbertina Guarini’s pieces sell for \$30 to as much as \$800, depending on the size and materials used.)

The sisters also carry earrings they buy from local vendors. Prices range from \$24 to \$185 for the pieces that run the gamut in designs and colors.

“If you love earrings, this is the place for you,” noted Gilbertina.

The idea for the store was sparked by the years Kirsten Guarini spent living in Denmark, her father’s native country. Kirsten had moved to Copenhagen in 2016 to attend college and spent the next four years working on tall ships used as sailing vessels.

When the boats were docked in 2020

due to Covid, Kirsten found work as a manager in a store that resold clothing. Missing her family and friends, she returned to San Francisco in July and broached the idea of opening her own shop with her sister, whom she said had always had a love for fashion.

Their mom was skeptical about the business model. But she told the Voice she changed her mind after learning about the thriving clothing resale market in Denmark.

“Secondhand is a big thing right now,” said Gilbertina Guarini, who works at Loved Again several days of the week. “We help the planet, we help people, and we help your pocket.”

Over the past year, more people from other parts of the city have been learning about the store and patronizing it, she said.

“I am just really happy to be here still,” she told the Voice.

Her daughter Kirsten added that having her mom’s business guidance had been invaluable.

“Our mom has a lot of experience, and she has been helping us along the way,” she said.

The reaction from residents to the store has been overwhelmingly positive, she added.

“People tell us it is really good to have another retail shop in the neighborhood,” she said.

Throughout December the store will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven

days a week. The hours will be reduced in January after the holidays.

—Matthew S. Bajko

Taking time off to spend time with her daughter, Seyfert couldn’t move forward this year on an idea she’d had to open a Yuletide, a Christmas market like the ones she grew up with in Germany. She told the Voice perhaps she would have time to do the market in 2024, likely somewhere in downtown San Francisco.

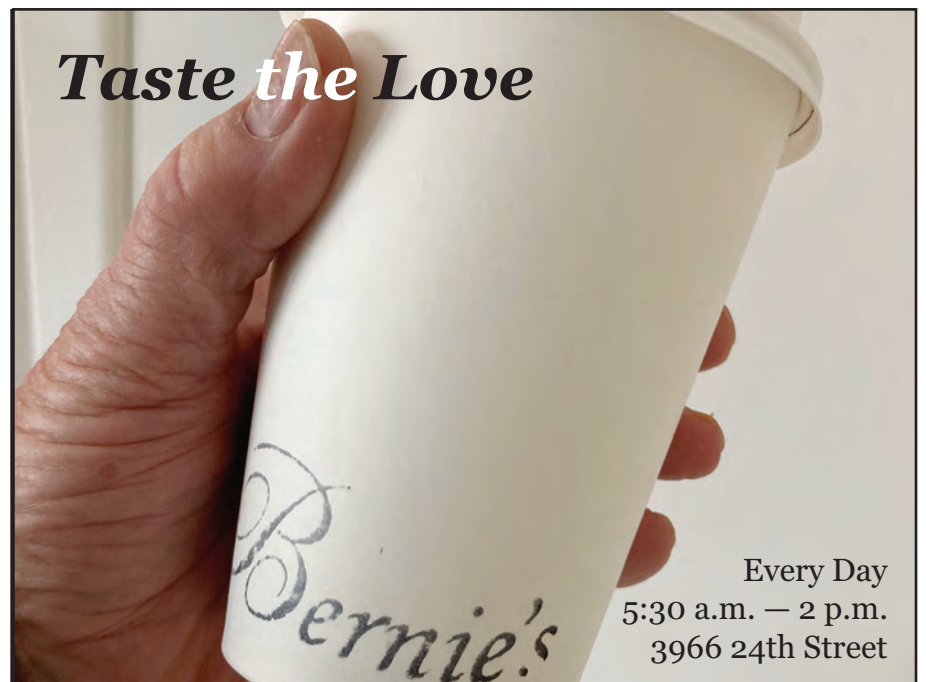
For now, Seyfert is working on being able to offer delivery this month via Door Dash. She has teamed up with Too Good to Go to sell packaged foods that have reached their expiration date but are still good (at a discounted price). Customers can place their order with the app and stop by the store to pick it up.

“Label dates are so misleading,” said Seyfert, who helped launch the app’s marketing in the city in 2021.

Lehr’s is closed Mondays. The rest of the week it opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and 5 p.m. on Sundays.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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# OTHER VOICES

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## The Luddite Chronicles

By Judy Irving

For those who saw my request for contact with smartphone-free people in the August *Noe Valley Voice*—and even for those who didn't—I got some wonderfully insightful responses. Here are the first two stories, with, I hope, more to come.

If you've ever been to Café Jacqueline on Grant Avenue in North Beach, you probably crossed paths with Matthew Weimer, a longtime waiter who for many years sported a handle-bar mustache. Matt, like me, has never had a cellphone of any kind, not even a flip phone. I've discovered in my research that this is quite rare. Most of my respondents have a flip phone, and some even have a smartphone, but they consciously restrict their use of it.

Matt has seen a steady erosion in social skills among diners at the café. "While they're waiting for their soufflés, they don't talk to each other, they look at their phones. Clients need to be reminded often that the chef does not want her picture taken. People automatically pull out their phones when they see her, if we haven't seen it coming and warned them off. If they aim a phone at her, she bristles and says, 'NO PHOTOS.' Then she allows them to photograph the eggs. I have caught that bug myself and do not like to have my picture taken. No logic to it. More like a primitive who feels his soul is somehow compromised in the process of being photographed."

Matt also notes that being in a hurry doesn't work well at Café Jacqueline, where every soufflé is made to order by Jacqueline herself. The café has no online reservation system. You call on their landline and leave a message. A real person calls you back and you make a reservation, which usually has to be six or eight weeks out, because the tiny, magical café is fully booked.

Caleb Harlon, a young waiter at Philz Coffee and Trad Bone Broth on 24th Street, gave up social media about two years ago but was still using his iPhone 12 a lot. In January, he switched to a flip phone. "It wasn't specifically a [New Year's] resolution," he told me in an email, "just something I knew I had to do. It began as a thought experiment—a wishful daydream—after being glued to [the phone] for months and seldom getting positive benefits. I realized, then reasoned, that I had the luxury to make the switch. Then I knew I must do it, so I could know that it can be done. And by luxury I mean that I am not absolutely needing it as a work device or as a parent. I have genuinely been able to take my mind off-line more and enjoy down time and in-between time."

Caleb will complete his B.A. in philosophy at SF State in December and will then pursue his next goal: a nursing degree. His age puts him in the millennial generation, "so I feel like I'm fond of life before cellphones." People



Caleb Harlon smiles and pours.

Photo © Mark Seawell

born after 1996—Generation Z, ages 11 to 26—don't have that luxurious memory.

If you'd like to dig a bit deeper, read *Stolen Focus* by Dan Harris, *The Hacking of the American Mind* by Robert Lustig, or *How to Break Up With Your Phone* by Catherine Price. *The Social Dilemma*, a documentary on Netflix, is a behind-the-scenes look at social media data harvesting. Brian Merchant, author of *Blood in the Machine: The Origins of the Rebellion Against Big Tech* and technology columnist at the *Los Angeles Times*,

wrote an opinion piece in September in the *Washington Post* whose title warmed my heart: "I've Always Loved Tech. Now I'm a Luddite. You Should Be One Too."

Be in touch! I want to hear more stories! Write [films@pelicanmedia.org](mailto:films@pelicanmedia.org)

**Judy Irving** is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker whose credits include *Dark Circle* (1982), *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* (2003), and *Pelican Dreams* (2014). Her newest, *Cold Refuge*, about swimming in San Francisco Bay, premiered at the International



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# DECEMBER CALENDAR

**Dec. 1-16:** CHUNG 24 Gallery shows “A Certain Slant of Light,” works by Adrienne Defendi and Anna Rotti. Artist talk Dec. 16, 3-4 pm; Wed.-Sat., 1:30-6 pm, or by appointment. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

**Dec. 1-22:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibits a group art show, “Old Friends / New Friends.” 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org

**Dec. 1 & Jan. 5:** The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses, on the first Friday of the month. 5-8 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroart-walk.com.

**Dec. 1-Jan. 7:** Gallery Sanchez displays “WATERCOLOR Journeys” by Golden Gate Artists. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 2:** The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets from 10 am to 12:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 2:** The BALTIC CHRISTMAS Fair at the Latvian Hall offers a market, food, crafts, choir carols, and pictures with Santa 10 am to 3 pm. 425 Hoffman. 647-9398.

**Dec. 2:** NOE MUSIC KIDS features a performance by vocalist Sarah Elizabeth Charles and pianist Jarrett Cherner. 10:30-11:15 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Dec. 2:** Neighborhood dogs are invited to pose for SANTA PHOTOS at the Noe Valley Pet Company, 11 am to 3 pm. 1451 Church. 282-7385; noevalleypet.com

**Dec. 2:** Joel Pomerantz leads a WALKING TOUR, “Thinkwalk: 1862 Flood.” Noon. RSVP to shap-ing@foundsf.org

**Dec. 2-16:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce, music, and fun, Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**Note the Farmers Mkt will be closed Dec. 23 & 30, per website.**

**Dec. 2, 9 & 16:** MUSIC at the Farmers Market the features Sunset Hill from 9 to 10:30 am, and Suzanne Holland from 11 am to 12:30 pm, on Dec. 2; Young Performers Day featuring students of Saideh Eftekhari from 9 to 10:30 am, and

Angel Mountain Strings and Forest Voices Children’s Choir from 11 am to 12:30 pm on Dec. 9; Dennis Cabral from 9 to 10:30 am, and Projeto Novo from 11 am to 12:30 pm on Dec. 16. NV Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** Stroll the streets with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

**Dec. 3:** ACTION SF hosts a monthly meeting and holiday get-together, open to all, 2:30 pm. email [actionsteam@gmail.com](mailto:actionsteam@gmail.com) for the location.

**Dec. 3:** NOE MUSIC hosts a performance by vocalist Sarah Elizabeth Charles and pianist Jarrett Cherner. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Dec. 3:** MUSIC on the Hill presents a concert by the Cecilia Ensemble featuring works by Schubert, Bartok, and Brahms. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org

**Dec. 3, 10 & 17:** Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Dec. 3 & 17:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the Town Square features Afro-Peruvian band Hurango on Dec. 3, and singer/songwriter TJ Hermiston on Dec. 17. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalley-townsquare.com

**Dec. 5:** Patricia De Fonte, from De Fonte Law on 24th St., offers a virtual ESTATE PLANNING class, Fundamentals for Parents. 11 am and 2 pm. 226-6283; sign up at [recesscollective.org/workshops](http://recesscollective.org/workshops)

**Dec. 5:** Sing along with NOE’S GARDEN from 11:15 am to noon. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 6:** Meditate while you paint with WATERCOLORS at the Noe Valley Library. 5-6 pm. 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

Dec. 6-Jan. 17: SFFD offers a NERT FULL

TRAINING Class, scheduled for Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. 2310 Folsom. Register at 558-3200; sf-fire.org

**Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Noe Valley Library hosts Family STORYTIMES on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am. Space is limited to 20 children; tickets available at 10 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The BAR on Dolores hosts open-mike COMEDY on Thursdays, presented by Mutiny Radio. 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

**Dec. 8:** SFPL’s Noe Valley FILM CLUB screens Sweet Smell of Success, a 1957 drama starring Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis. 2 to 3:45 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 8:** The Bell Appeal HANDBELL CHOIR performs a free concert to benefit Casa de Las Madres. 5-7 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. bethanysf.org

**Dec. 8:** The McAllister Music Studio’s WINTER CONCERT brings cheer from 7 to 11 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**Dec. 9:** Hola Kids! performs a singalong CHARLIE BROWN Christmas, with the Jeffrey Chin Trio. 10:30 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org

**Dec. 9:** An adult and teen WORKSHOP to make Folded Book Decorations runs from 2 to 3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 9 & 16:** Elizabeth Dekker at Art Haus offers workshops to make mini hand-painted canvas ORNAMENTS. 11 am-12:30 pm. 3977 24th. info@arthaus.com

**Dec. 10:** Northern Lights PAINTING for kids is taught by Ms. Merrill. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 10:** Maurice Tani and Mike Anderson perform a concert, “COUNTRY NOIR: Sin & Celebration.” 5-7 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**Dec. 10:** LIEDER ALIVE! hosts a perform-

ance by mezzo-soprano Alice Chung and pianist Peter Grünberg, with guest Paul Yarbrough on the viola. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**Dec. 11:** Get Drop-In TECH HELP from the library staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Dec. 13:** Chabad of Noe Valley hosts CHANUKAH WONDERLAND with a 9-foot Menorah lighting, crafts, singing, and treats. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalley-townsquare.com

**Dec. 13:** Holiday HAPPY HOUR at Olive This Olive That runs from 4 to 7 pm. 304 Vicksburg. 251-7520.

**Dec. 14:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on second Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**Dec. 16:** Omnivore Books hosts two Holiday POP-UPS: Mary Denham’s “Baked Goodies from Bloom’s End,” 10 am to 1 pm; and Emily Luchetti’s Jams, noon to 3 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

**Dec. 16:** The annual 24 Holidays TREASURE HUNT, sponsored by Mapamundi Kids and Rabbit Hole Theater. Meet and get a clue sheet at the Town Square, 3861 24th. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. 641-6192

**Dec. 16:** The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET celebrates its 20th anniversary with a short ceremony (and cake) in the Town Square, 3861 24th. 11 am. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Dec. 16:** Go caroling through the neighborhood with the SONGBIRD CITY CHOIR. 5-8:30 pm. Meet at Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. bethanysf.org

The next Noe Valley Voice will be the 2024 Literary issue, distributed the 1st week of January. The next calendar will appear in the February 2024 issue. The deadline is Jan. 15. Please email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com)



**ADULT FICTION**

James Ellroy rekindles the 1962 Marilyn Monroe death myth in the crime epic *The Enchanters*.

Let us *Descend* by Jesmyn Ward reimagines slavery in the American South.

Set in Tel Aviv, Rebecca Sacks' *The Lover* is the love story of a 27-year-old Canadian woman and a 19-year-old Israeli soldier.

Quintus the fox is given a chance to redeem himself after guiding an expedition to its doom, in Christopher Rowe's fable *The Navigating Fox*.

*The Unsettled* by Ayana Mathis is a novel that follows the fortunes of an Alabama woman who moves to Philadelphia.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Scott Shane describes the life of abolitionist Thomas Smallwood in *Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Borderland*.

*Glitter and Concrete: A Cultural History of Drag in New York City*, by Elyssa Goodman, recounts the origins and proliferation of drag art.

In *Start Here: Instructions for Becoming a Better Cook*, Sohla El-Wayly gives practical and scientific tips to improve one's cooking.

Ryan Britt examines the popularity of Frank Herbert's novels and their film spin-offs, in *The Spice Must Flow: The Story of Dune, from Cult Novels to Visionary Sci-Fi Movies*.

Journalist and essayist Evelyn McDonnell analyzes the work of one of California's most popular writers, in *The World According to Joan Didion*.

**ADULT EBOOKS**

In *Hush Harbor* by Anise Vance, a resistance group in New Jersey takes over a historic sanctuary after the killing of an unarmed teenager.

Ben Lerner's book of poetry, *The Lights*, includes vignettes and voicemail messages written over a span of 15 years.

*Misfit: Growing Up Awkward in the '80s* is comedian Gary Gulman's memoir of his childhood, from kindergarten to the 12th grade.

In Nina Simon's *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, a woman tries to solve a murder in a sleepy coastal town with help from her daughter and granddaughter.

**ADULT BLU-RAY/DVDS**

In the 2023 science fiction drama *Aporia*, a grieving widow considers traveling on a time-bending machine to avenge her husband's murder.

Martin Sheen narrates *Downwind*, a 2023 exposé of America's carelessness in nuclear testing.

*Dreamin' Wild* is a 2022 biography of the musical brothers Donnie and Joe Emerson, played by Casey Affleck and Walton Goggins.

A woman who used to work as an Afghan translator for the U.S. military takes a job in a Chinese fortune cookie factory, in *Fremont* (2023).

In the 2021 thriller *Madeleine Collins*, a woman leads a double life, split between Switzerland and France.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*Speed Trap* by Michael Blake

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**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**Holiday Readings**

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, Noe Valley's Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Library Manager Mary Fobbs-Guillory worked quiet as a mouse. They were rounding up books, films, and current event titles, to delight our poor brains and other warm vitals.

Noe Voice bookworm Karol Barske did reviews in details quotidian, but stopped to admire when she got to *The World According to Joan Didion*.

I knew *Chinese Menu*, *Navigating Fox*, or *Puppy Cam* was for me—or the book with the best title: *Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea*.

To borrow the works or others you can't resist, hop a sleigh ride to SFPL.org or otherwise get on their list. Put your

favorites on hold to pick up at the Noe Valley branch on Jersey. If you need to reserve an event date, call Fobbs-Guillory at 415-355-5707 as a courtesy.

(That's it for my rhyming, you'll be glad you knows. I'm gone for Thanksgiving and will come back before it snows.)

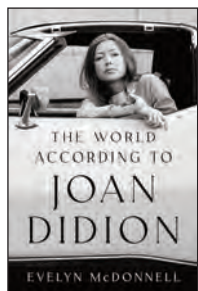
Noe Valleyans who are lucky enough to be here in December, you might want to time your visit to the library to meet Ms. Merrill, from YouTube's "Ms. Merrill Makes," on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. (make a reservation). The artist and teacher will show you how to paint the Northern Lights.

Or if you sign up early, you can create **Handmade Holiday Cards** at a workshop at the library on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. Space is limited. (See more events in the box to the right.)

Hours at the Noe Valley branch are 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.

Please note that the city's libraries will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas Day, and Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. Libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

With this *Voice* on the street and no longer out of sight, we say "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



—Sally Smith, ed.

**CHILDREN'S FICTION:**

*Cat vs. Vac* by Kaz Windness depicts the inevitable friction between a pet and a noisy machine. Ages 3-5.

*Critter Cam: Puppy Cam* is part of a series (*Kitty-Cam, Shark-Cam*) by Margie Palatini, with illustrations by Dan Yaccarino. Ages 3-5.

SJ Okemow's picture book *Âmf Osâwâpikones (Dear Dandelion)* reminds us how we can share the resilience of a dandelion. Ages 4-7.

A title in the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series, *Glitterpony Farm* by Tina Connolly (illustrations by Norm Grock) imagines a trip with your cousin ending in an animal dance party. Ages 6-8.

The fourth in a series of six books, *Diary of a Roblox Pro: Lava Chase* by Ari Avatar follows the volcanic adventures of an avatar kid who lives in Blockville. Ages 7-10.

Kristen Tracy offers a "Freaky Friday" role reversal in *Don't Trust the Cat*. Ages 8-12.

*Eagle Drums* by Nasu□raq Rainey Hopson tells the folklore story of the Iñuplaq Messenger Feast, a native Alaskan tradition. Ages 8-12.

Told in verse, *When Clouds Touch Us* by Thanh Hà Lai follows a family of refugees during the Viet Nam War. Ages 8-12.

**CHILDREN'S NONFICTION:**

A child charts her own neighborhood when she learns about types of maps, in *From Here to There: A First Book of Maps* by Vivian French, with illustrations by Ya-Ling Huang. Ages 3-7.

In *A Day at the Zoo*, part of "The Math Adventurers" series by Sital Gorasia Chapman, two robots learn about time as they look for their favorite animal, the giraffe. Ages 5-7.

*Curious About Lizards* by Alissa Thielges tells how you take care of this sweet but cold-blooded pet. Ages 6-9.

*She's a Mensch! Ten Amazing Jewish Women*, by Anne Dublin, explores the legacies of 10 women from places as diverse as Kenya, Canada, and New York.

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

Hang out with other crafters at the **Knitting Circle**, Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The library has limited supplies to practice on but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind.

Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers can sing and imagine with **Noe's Garden** on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 11:15 a.m. until noon. Reservations required: call 355-5707, email, or talk to staff.

**Meditation with Watercolors** for teens and adults is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5 to 6 p.m. Space is limited; reservations required: 355-5707.

**Storytimes** on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28. Space limited to 20 children. Tickets available at the branch beginning at 10 a.m.

The Noe Valley **Film Club** screens the 1957 drama *Sweet Smell of Success*, starring Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis, on Friday, Dec. 8, 2 to 3:45 p.m.

Adults and teens can learn to make decorations out of **Folded Books** at a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Space is limited, so registration is required. Call, email, or talk to staff to reserve a spot.

Learn about the **Northern Lights** and paint your own version with advice from Ms. Merrill, from YouTube's "Ms. Merrill Makes," on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. Space is limited; reservations required: 355-5707.

Get one-on-one **Tech Help** from the library staff, including how to download eBooks, use library eResources, set up an email account and other basic computer-related tasks, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own device, or practice using a library computer.

**Family Board Game and Lego Night** welcomes all ages on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Lola Ren reads about "a rainbow of diversity" at **Drag Story Hour**, followed by face painting for children and their families. Saturday, Dec. 16, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Create **Handmade Holiday Cards** at a workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. Space is limited: registration required.

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

Ages 9-12.

*Lionel Messi* by Thomas Adamson spotlights the career of one of Argentina's best known soccer stars. Ages 9-12.

**CHILDREN'S EBOOKS:**

Mouse, Hare, Fox, Deer, and Bear each want the fallen apple, in *Minel* by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann. Ages 3-7.

Campers learn about a beautiful but quite odiferous animal in *If You Were a Skunk* by Carol Doeringer, with illustrations by Florence Weiser. Ages 5-8

*Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea* is the 11th of 12 books in a series of graphic novels by Dav Pilkey. Ages 8-12.

Grace Lin offers a storytelling feast in *Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods*. Ages 8-12.



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

**BRANCH HOURS**

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6
Mission Branch Library 1234 Valencia St., 355-2800						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-8	1-6	10-6

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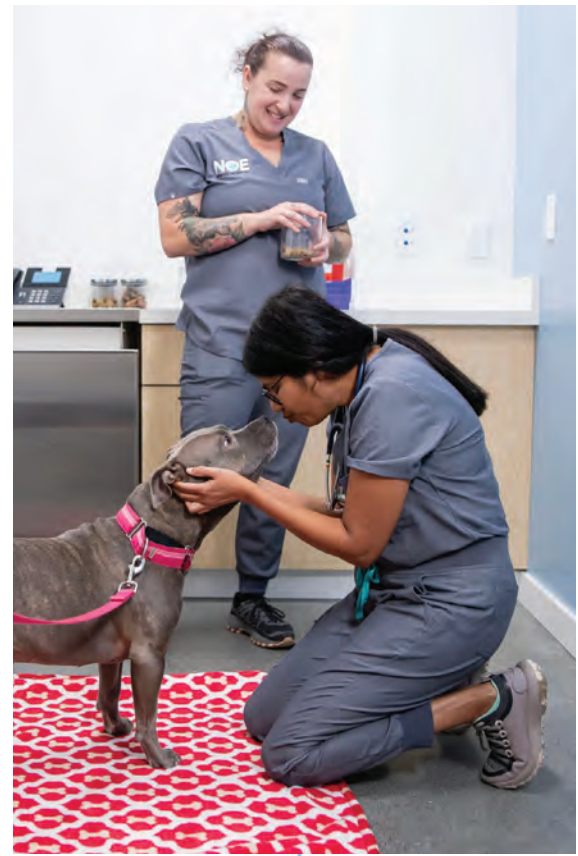
# THANK YOU

*for an amazing 1st year!*

Whether you've entrusted us with routine check-ups or relied on our expertise in times of need, we are deeply thankful for your support. Noe Animal Hospital is honored to be your choice for pet care, and we look forward to many more years of keeping tails wagging and whiskers purring.

Here's to the past, present, and future – together, we make Noe Valley a better place for pets!

With heartfelt appreciation,  
The Noe Animal Hospital Team



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the difference!

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and now for the  
**RUMORS**  
behind the news

**The Holiday are Here**

By Mazook

**2024 IS UPON US** Hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and will have wonderful Holidays in December. Soon it will be Happy New Year. My, how time flies. I will enjoy my vacation and won't be back here until February. I will miss each and every one of you.

**IN THE NEWS THESE DAZE** Lola Herrera appeared on ABC Channel 7 News in a feature by reporter (and Noe Valleon) Lyane Melendez who traveled around San Francisco last month looking for garb that defines fashion women attendees of the APEC conference should be looking for in our City. Lola, as you might know is a popular garb maker in Noe Valley (for many years) She also is a purveyor of local artists works with art shows year-round.

The December (through January) show at Lola Gallery--located at 1250 Sanchez Street at Clipper and open Tuesday-Sunday 12-6--- will feature textile artist Sandi daRoza. The show's theme is "Looking Out My Window" with Art Quilts, Wearable Art, and other fun stitching works....

Opening Reception Friday Dec. 8th 5-7 pm and treats will be served.

Says Lola: "A lifelong artist, Sandi learned to enjoy sewing at a very young age with her beloved mother, whose creative hands were never still. She revels in the rich medium of fabric, from the vast array of bold hues and patterns to the interplay of textures and stitches--translating its story into beautiful art. Once stitched and quilted, Sandi's art comes alive. Sandi's art is playful and whimsical. Inspired by family, friends, and the beauty of nature, her work is made to elicit joy and happiness."



**ELICITING MUCH JOY** for all her students and great relief for art teacher Elizabeth Dekker, who has her studio and classroom at 377 24th Street called Art Haus, when she learned at November's end that she was able to secure a 20 year lease for her space at an affordable rent. "I am elated that after 3 years and having a growing business in the neighborhood where I live and able to walk to work -a dream come true-I will be here for a long time."

As some of you may know the building had been owned since the early 1970's by Barbara Martin who had a woman's clothing store for many years, passed away a year ago. Her family decided to sell the building and a "For Sale" sign went up with the asking price of \$2.2M for two residential units above two small commercial shops, both of which are occupied now by Dekker "I thought my dream was over," she says.

But then there was a miracle on 24th Street. Taking an interest in buying the property was the non-profit San Francisco Community Land

Trust who works with The City so they can preserve affordable living. They describe themselves as follows: "CLTs can preserve San Francisco's diminishing affordable housing stock by acquiring and converting endangered rental buildings into permanently affordable, limited equity housing cooperatives--an alternative form of homeownership--through which the current residents become owners of the building. The Land Trust maintains ownership of the land and separates the building from the land, the units become affordable and can be maintained as affordable forever."

Dekker and the residential tenants made a concerted effort to get help from the CLT along with many families whose children are students of Dekker. Help was on the way. "I was so gratified that so many people were on our side" says Dekker. There are currently 80 students, most of whom are younger. "I have students who range from ages 7 to 81, with two ladies who are ages are 77 and 81" She also invites local artists to show their works at the gallery which is open to the public. Many of her own creations and those of her students are on display to be admired and are for sale.

And speaking of good will, my shopping scoop for those of you who don't already know is this: For several years now, Noe Valley Bakery offers all store baked goods for 20% off your entire purchase for "Senior Days" which is every customer over age 55 can get for the asking every Tuesday and Thursday of the week.



**I SCREAM AND YOU SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM.** What about Gelato? Well, the scoop on this is The La Copa Loca Gelato, which has been located in The Mission at 3150 22nd Street at Capp Street for the past 18 years, is soon to open its second location right here in Noe Valley at 1504 Church Street near the corner of 27th Street.

Co-owner (with her husband), Sandra Pislor says "We are hoping to open in late December after completing the remodel which is almost finished and getting all the permits from The City."

The menu is filled with scoops and sundae cups as well as smoothies and milk shakes of fresh fruits (strawberry, kiwi, mango, Papaya, melons and mixed berries, banana, pineapple and raspberry) with yogurts and nuts; just to mention a few items. You can mix and match all that with

Hazelnuts, Chocolate, Marshmallow, Peanuts, walnuts almonds pecans, Oreo cookies, M&M's and caramel crunch toppings. What caught my eye on the menu was the Caffettone, described as "A simmering shot of espresso, cooled with a delicious swirl of Mascarpone soft gelato."



**MERCHANTS AND RESIDENTS** on 24th Street got notice from Carla Short, interim director of the Department of Public Works, that work will begin in the fall of 2024 on "joint paving and sewer replacement infrastructure improvements on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg."

Martha and Brothers Coffee is located in that block, and included in that notice was that the "shared space" aka the public parklet in front of the coffee shop would have to "temporarily remove or modify your shared space to accommodate the Project."

Since that is a public parklet for anyone and everyone, that is part of the Department of Recreation and Parks, it would seem that they, not Martha's, are responsible to temporarily remove or modify it, not Martha's.

Updating the updates of last month, when there was a paving and sewer replacement on 24th between Church and Chattanooga, Mr. Digby's was told they had to remove their parklet on 24th Street to the dismay and outrage of Digby owners Mike and Kristen McCaffery, who wrote and public letter to the DPW of outrage about how much that would cost which was quoted in Rumors last month.

Well, it appears that they didn't have to remove their parklet, and the work was done around the parklet. McCaffery says that he was informed that the job was not completed and that will be resumed "sometime" next year. "We will just have to deal with that next year," say McCaffery.



**FARMERS MARKET MUSIC IN DECEMBER** will have some special musicians performing at the Noe Valley Town Square. On December 2 the early (early show 9 to 10:30) group is Sunset Hill, and from 11 to 12:30 late show) Folk singer Suzanna Holland will perform. The following Saturday morning (December 9th) will be "young Performers Day."

Students of Saideh Eftekhari will perform holiday favorites in the early show and the late show will feature Holiday spirit by two beloved San Francisco music programs: Angel Mountain Strings, directed by Elise Engelberg, students age 4 - 15, and Forest Voices Children's Choir, ages 7 - 11, directed by Noe Venable On December 16 the early show features Dennis Cabral playing family-friendly kids songs and the second show will feature PROJETO NOVO (trio) doing originals and covers in English, Spanish, Portuguese.

On Saturday December 23 the early show at 9 will be Stray Muse led by Shelley Sorenson and the late show will by Noe Valley rockers Liberty Street. And finally on September 30 9:00 - 10:00 Swami 3 with three teen brothers will be rocking the Farmers Market! The late show will be Max Williams playing solo jazz guitar.

The Town Square will also feature **ACOUSTIC SUNDAY** on **DECEMBER 3, 1 - 3PM** a special show featuring Huarango which is a musical project based in the music and the cultural heritage of Afro-Peruvian culture in the San Francisco Bay Area. Incorporated into their music is Afro-Peruvian percussion: Cajon, Cajita and Quijada de Burro (donkey's jawbone) -- symbols of resistance for African descendants in Peru. We are led by Pierr Padilla, musician, dancer and actor. Don't miss this unique event!

In other Noe Show Biz news, The Dubliner Bar is hosting an "All-Star Comedy Night" on Friday December 1 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. It will be hosted by Stu Losh with Joe Gleckler opening the show and will feature Matt Gubser and finally headliner Bob Johnston. These are all seasoned comics and should put on a show with lots of laughs.



**TO HONOR PETER GABEL**, who was a Noe Valley icon until he passed away in October 2022, the Noe Valley Town Square is raising funding to install a bronze sidewalk plaque in the same spot where he stood greeting people coming into the Noe Valley Farmers Market which he co-founded in 2003 as a community-building act of protest against the union-busting health food store, Real Foods, a block away where Skin Spirit now resides.

Spearheading this effort are local community activists Roberta Achtenberg, Leslie Crawford, Chris Kean, and Regina Ridley If you want to donate you will find a table in front of the Farmers Market where you can write a check made payable to the "Arlene Francis Foundation" or send it to 99 6th Street, Santa Rosa Ca 95401. As some of you may know Arlene Francis (famous Broadway actress and regular panelist on Television's "What's My Line") was Peter's mother and who spent her later years in Santa Rosa until she passed away in 2001.



**THAT'S ALL FOLKS FOR 2023.** Wishing you all and your family wonderful Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you here again in February. Ciao for now.



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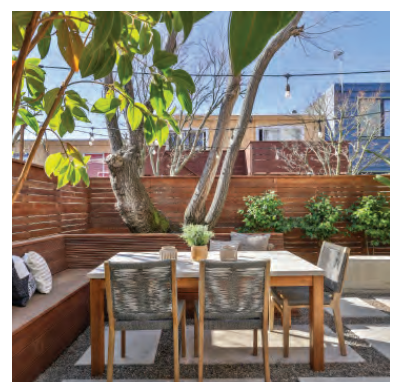
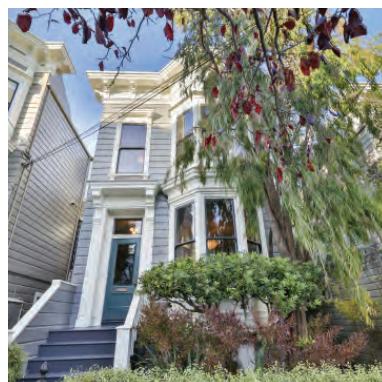
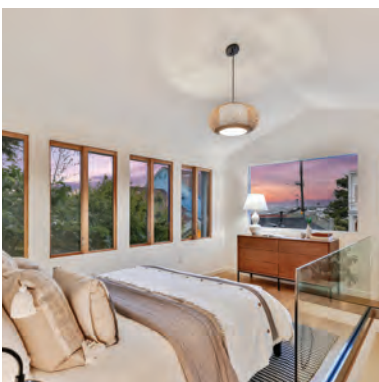
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