



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

The Fight to Defend Same-Sex Marriage

Noe Couple Ready to Pitch In Again to Safeguard Rights

By Matthew S. Bajko

In the spring of 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to marry in the state. Many LGBTQ+ couples rushed to exchange wedding vows over the next five months, hoping to beat the fall election, which featured a controversial ballot initiative known as Proposition 8.

Prop. 8 aimed to define marriage in the state constitution as being only between a man and a woman, and thus to deny the legal privilege to same-sex partners.

Among those in Noe Valley who wished they could have married that summer were Ruth Borenstein and Karen Strauss. However, because Strauss' mother in Florida was seriously ill with cancer and other family members also could not travel to San Francisco, Strauss and Borenstein



Picture This: Art is in the making at the Friday class at Elizabeth Dekker's Art Haus on 24th Street. Do you recognize anyone in the portraits?

Photo by Jack Tipple

decided to wait to hold their ceremony.

Voters ended up narrowly adopting Prop. 8 in November. The day after the election, lawsuits were filed challenging Prop. 8's constitutionality.

Borenstein and Strauss agreed to take part in one of the cases and became the lead plaintiffs in Strauss v. Horton. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

24th Street Welcomes New Ambassadors

Retired Police Officers Walking the Beat in District 8

By John Ferrannini

A program of safety ambassadors provided by the San Francisco Police Department has expanded to Noe Valley.

Two are already walking 24th Street, between Douglass and Dolores streets, according to SFPD Sergeant William Elieff, who coordinates the city's 74 ambassadors and 11 assignment locations.

The blue-and-khaki-clad ambassadors don't carry weapons, and split their 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. shifts between Noe Valley and the Castro, Elieff said.

"We have five people that typically work that area," he said. "They are typically former law enforcement with the City and County of San Francisco only, and they shoot me an email, or anyone here in command engagement, and it's forwarded to me and we add their names to a list. Then the command staff makes a decision about whether to hire more. Then they forward the list to me, and I teach a class."

Nelson Ramos is one of those who works 24th Street. A former police officer, Ramos retired last July and started as an ambassador the next month.

"At first, I was assigned to the Castro," Ramos told the Voice. "A month and a half, two months ago, they had us come to Noe Valley. We go to



On Patrol: Walt and Nelson (right), who ask to go by first names only, are among the new Community Ambassadors now assigned to Noe Valley and the Castro.

Photo by Art Bodner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Books to Read During Cool Gray Summers of Love

Two Shops and Several Little Free Libraries Bare Their Souls

By Kit Cameron

School's out, summer's here, and reading a book, whether in print or on your phone, is we hope for fun and adventure.

With that in mind, Katerina Argyres of Folio Books, at 3957 24th St., shares some spicy, thrilling, and fantastical summer reads.

If escape is the goal, she suggests you find a *Happy Place*, the latest romance from Emily Henry, author of the bestselling *Beach Read* and *People We Meet on Vacation*. The action takes place at a beach house in Maine. Among the guests are a married couple now living apart but pretending to be together for the time they are with company. Nothing can go wrong with that scenario!

For a story based in reality, try the new historical epic by Isabelle Allende, *The Wind Knows My Name*. It takes the reader to the Kindertransport of 1938 and then to the 2019 separation of families at the U.S. border.

"I love Isabel Allende's writing," says Argyres. "Her books are always deeply moving with beautiful writing. While the subject matter of child immigration was heartbreaking to read about—there were tears—I appreciated her deft hand at propelling the narrative forward."

Looking for something to give you chills? Argyres calls *The Quiet Tenant* by Clémence Michallon "my favorite summer thriller. I was immediately

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Purls of Wisdom: A little library stand near Bethany Methodist Church was "yarn-bombed" in June by San Francisco Richmond Yarn Buddies. The knitted graffiti lovingly frames the books, which are free for the borrowing. Photos by Kit Cameron



We don't just talk the talk,
we walk the walk.

Our care is one-of-a kind.

We don't just treat symptoms. We treat your child from the inside out.

We find the right remedy.

We gladly offer safe alternatives to antibiotics when appropriate.

We offer house calls.

Kids don't come with manuals. Let us be your village.

We're always here.

Your GetzWell pediatrician is available 24/7. Just call or email. We'll answer.

We are what we eat.

We believe nutrition and functional medicine are powerful ingredients for growing kids.

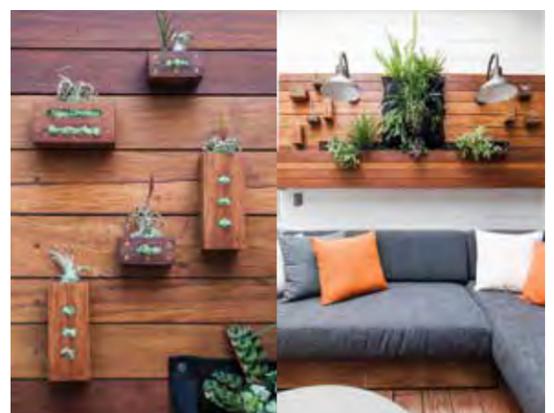
415.826.1701 | WWW.GETZWELL.COM
1701 CHURCH ST, SAN FRANCISCO | 1800 UNION ST, SAN FRANCISCO

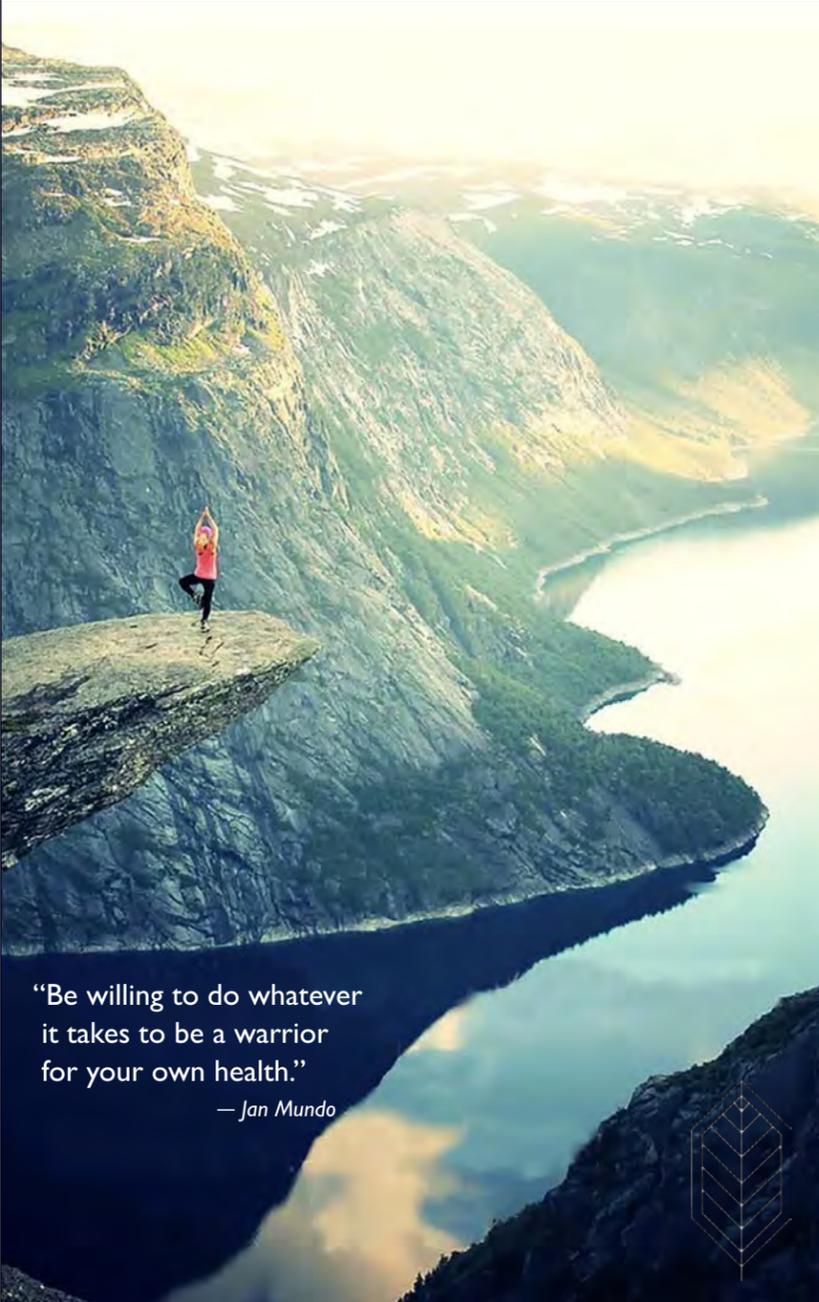


**We Design. We Build.
Inside & Out. Big or Small.**

FINEROOT DESIGN+BUILD

2660 Harrison St, San Francisco / 415.653.3096 / Lic #1020711 / finerootsf.com





“Be willing to do whatever it takes to be a warrior for your own health.”
— Jan Mundo

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE WITH

Dr. Nina Campagna NMD

Naturopathic Medical Doctor

Naturopathic Medicine addresses the root causes of your health challenges and utilizes natural therapies to restore your vitality.

My areas of expertise include:

- Female and Male Hormone Balancing • Longevity Medicine
- Thyroid Issues • Sustainable Weight Management
- Chronic Fatigue • Gastro-Intestinal Conditions

I offer all potential new patients a complimentary 15 minute Health Coordination Appointment by phone so you can find out more about my approach and determine if working together is a match.



Dr. Nina Campagna NMD
Naturopathic Medical Doctor

415.879.9340

DrNina@DrNinaCampagna.com

www.doctor-nina.com



Providing exceptional and loving care in a comforting environment.



We invite you to experience the difference!

Make an appointment online today!



Our beautiful location houses everything you'll need for the most advanced veterinary care throughout your pet's life, including dental, surgical and diagnostic spaces – all under one roof! The exceptional veterinary team we've assembled is unlike any other, and we're here to serve you and your pet for life with skill, caring and a passion to keep your pet happy and healthy.

(415) 236-5060 • noeanimalhospital.com

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
 P.O. Box 460249
 San Francisco, CA 94146
 www.noevalleyvoice.com

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published in San Francisco. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity during the first week of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

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.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Email: Editor@noevalleyvoice.com or Sally@noevalleyvoice.com

Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Distribution: Call Jack, 415-385-4569

Display Advertising: Call Pat, 415-608-7634, or email PatRose@noevalleyvoice.com

Display Advertising Deadline for the August 2023 Literary Issue: July 20, 2023

Editorial Deadline: July 15, 2023

CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
 Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
 Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor
 Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Kit Cameron, Elliot Carlson, Chris Faust, John Ferrannini, Jan Goben, Suzanne Herel, Liz Highleyman, Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Megan Wetherall

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
 Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Charles Kennard, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING
 Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION
 Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION
 Jack Tipple

WEB GURU
 Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES
 Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
 by Fricke-Parks Press

Contents © 2023 The Noe Valley Voice

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Spike in Car Break-ins

Though overall figures were down compared to last year, the latest crime data for Noe Valley showed an upswing in vehicle break-ins and gun crimes. According to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports, there were 34 incidents classified as larceny/thefts in May, more than double the number reported in April (15). Almost half (16) involved smash-and-grabs of items left in cars. The rest included license plate thefts, parts stripped from vehicles, package thefts, and, in one unusual case, a pickpocketing at 4 p.m. on May 5 at 29th and Noe streets.

Even more troubling, a person was robbed at gunpoint May 30 at 4:40 p.m. in the vicinity of Castro and 24th streets. Guns also were wielded in two of the five reported assault cases—on May 17 around 11:15 p.m. at 21st and Castro streets and on May 24 at 3:25 a.m. at Elizabeth Street and Hoffman Avenue.

On a positive note, the data showed a decrease in burglaries. There were only

CRIME SNAPSHOT											
Noe Valley Incident Reports August 2022 – May 2023											
Incident Type	Aug22	Sep22	Oct22	Nov22	Dec22	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	May23	
Larceny/Theft	43	28	41	41	26	32	17	21	15	34	
Burglary	20	16	25	10	17	11	10	13	13	7	
Malicious Mischief	5	10	7	7	6	3	4	9	9	4	
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	16	13	25	10	15	10	14	10	10	
Assault	3	5	7	3	1	7	3	8	2	5	
Robbery	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	
Other Misc.	4	5	10	6	1	5	5	6	5	0	
Fraud	1	0	0	4	6	3	3	1	0	3	
Family D.Violence	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	
Vandalism	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	
Totals	93	83	107	98	70	79	55	76	55	66	

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. The *Noe Valley Voice* scraped the **May 2023 data on June 10, 2023**. "Noe Valley" on the SFPD map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

seven reported in May, the lowest monthly total since the *Voice* began tracking Noe Valley crime data in January 2020. Altogether, there were 66 incidents recorded in May in the 10 categories the *Voice* tracks monthly. That number was

11 more than the April tally but significantly fewer than the 84 incidents reported in May 2022.

We collected the May data on June 10, 2023, from Data.sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

LETTERS 63¢

Sandwich Makers Needed
 Editor:

Hi, I am Victoria Fisher, and I am 11 years old. Me and my friend Sierra are in the Girl Scout Troop 62718 and working on our Bronze Award. We are Juniors moving on to Cadets. For our Bronze Award, we are helping the homeless by making a flyer for our church, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church on 455 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94131. The phone is 415-583-3320.

You see, our church once a month makes 100 sandwiches for homeless people. If more people come, we can increase the amount of sandwiches and possibly do it twice a month. But we can't do this without your help. We'd like to be in your

newspaper! If this happens, not only would more people see, but it would continue to recruit kind citizens to help those in need and inspire others to help too.

Thanks for listening.
 Victoria Fisher

Save the Mosaics
 Editor:

I recently noticed that the beautiful mosaics at 4018 24th St., once adorning Global Exchange and later La PanotiQ, had been covered in white paint! Then, to add insult to injury, they were marred by graffiti. The building has been boarded up a long time. I hope there is some way the community can remove and preserve these treasures. Perhaps the mosaics



As these June photos show, the mosaics at 4018 24th St. have been endangered by both construction and graffiti. Can anyone help save them? Photo left courtesy Kathy Perl; right Jack Tipple

could be installed somewhere in the town square. If the landlord, a tenant, or anyone else who might know how to save the artwork will contact me, I would be willing to help.

Kathy Perl
 Krperl7@gmail.com

Next Up: Noe Valley Art Festival
 Editor:

The Friends of Noe Valley would like to thank everyone who made the 2023 Garden Tour such a wonderful, successful event. The day started out rainy and gray, but we had luck on our side, and just as the tour was slated to begin, the rain stopped!

We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to the dedicated Garden Committee members who worked tirelessly to pull everything together; to the Garden Hosts, who hospitably opened up their gardens for viewing; to the many, many, many Garden Greeters, who took a shift and welcomed visitors at the gardens; to everyone who bought a ticket and attended the tour; and to the generous sponsors, whose assistance helped make the event happen.

Proceeds from the Garden Tour are going for projects on Slow Sanchez and in the Noe Valley Town Square.

In Other News: After a very successful first-ever Art Festival in 2022, Friends of Noe Valley is thrilled to announce the second (now annual) Noe Valley Art Festival, to be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023! It will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and free to the public to attend.

If you are an artist, please consider joining us and being a part of this exciting event! Please note that for 2023 art sales in the square will be permitted! No restrictions.

Not an artist? How about volunteering to help us plan this event. We would love to have you. Seriously, we would. No experience necessary!

If you are interested in participating as an artist or in volunteering to help plan, please send an email to friendsofnv@gmail.com. We will get back to you as soon as we can with details.

Thank you again to our wonderful Noe Valley community.

Linda Lockyer and Peggy Cling
 Friends of Noe Valley

WANT TO AVOID EXCESSIVE LEGAL FEES?

Be Your Own Lawyer
I CAN HELP YOU HELP YOURSELF

The First Consultation is **FREE**

Susan Petro
 Attorney at Law

www.susanpetrolaw.com
 Near Civic Center Bart Station and Courthouse

415.586.3066
 susanpetro@sbcglobal.net



editor@noevalleyvoice.com

VALLEY VIEWS

Call to Rename Christopher Park A Rush to Judgment

By Evelyn Rose



The April 1955 edition of the magazine *Men* featured an article by Lt. Elden Bearden of the SFPD Sex Crimes Squad casting San Francisco as a “haven for homosexuals.”

From the personal collection of Evelyn Rose

brass” was detached from City Hall and working to carve out its own political identity and power.

Long before Christopher was mayor, the SFPD had been rife with corruption. Line officers accepted bribes and had little oversight. The police had few policies and minimal training.

According to Agee, the decentralized nature of the force enabled patrol officers to exercise great autonomy, and “the beat officers’ own sense of right and wrong...also influenced how they both defined and responded to crime.” Without proper training, SFPD line officers were inconsistent in their assessment of criminal acts and erratic in their response.

The Heat Was On

In 1951, the California Supreme Court issued an opinion that bar licenses could not be revoked just because an establishment was a homosexual hang-out. Unphased, policing authorities continued their harassment of bar owners and patrons. In March 1955, local ABC director Frank Fullenwider invited SFPD Chief Michael Gaffey and District Attorney Thomas C. Lynch to join “a program of militant liquor law enforcement.”

In April, Lieutenant Elden Bearden of the SFPD Sex Crimes Squad published an article in *Men* magazine titled, “Don’t Call Us ‘Queer City.’” In it, he fumed that San Francisco had become “a haven for homosexuals” and that they had been given “as much right to be in a restaurant or bar as any other adult human being.” As if to put readers at ease, he bellowed that if homosexuals insisted upon making themselves offensive in public, “the men of my Sex Crimes Squad will keep the ‘heat’ on.”

The following month, DA Lynch issued a new directive to Acting Chief George Healey (Gaffey was on sick leave) to take “whatever action he saw fit.” Lynch also specified, “The heat was to be turned on sexual deviant bars.”

In July 1955, local media predicted the next mayor would appoint a new chief. When Christopher won in November, he warned Chief Healey to “clean up” the SFPD before his inauguration. With no observable progress by

January 1956, Christopher replaced Healey in a department overhaul, proclaiming “henceforth, we are going to be very strict in the conduct of our police officers.”

Police commissioners identified, and Christopher approved, a new chief from the ranks: “Honest Frank” Ahern, with Thomas Cahill named deputy chief. Christopher later shared, “Ahern was a good honest cop...I was looking for an unvarnished, untainted officer to become chief of police and I had a great deal of difficulty.”

An ‘Enlightened Attitude’

In September 1959, Christopher was running for re-election against City Assessor Russell Wolden. That same month, the Mattachine Society, an organization for homosexual rights based in San Francisco, was meeting in Denver. At the convention, a resolution was submitted by a man named William Brandhove, praising Christopher for his “enlightened attitude” and for making San Francisco a welcoming place for homosexuals. The resolution was unanimously approved.

In fact, Brandhove, a felon, was working for Wolden, who, in turn, used the resolution in an attempt to smear Christopher. Wolden announced in fliers and on the radio that San Francisco had become a national headquarters for “organized sex deviants” under the “benign attitude” of the Christopher administration. The Mattachine Society had no awareness of Wolden’s scheme, and local press rallied in the group’s support. Wolden was publicly shamed, and Christopher easily won re-election.

In 1960, the Gayola Scandal swept the city. Seven SFPD officers and one ABC agent were indicted for extorting money from gay bar owners to prevent police raids on their venues. Still striving for a clean SFPD, Christopher demanded that more stringent rules be adopted for controlling police interactions with bars. He also reminded commissioners that California law permitted homosexuals to gather in public places; police could not act unless an overt sexual act was being committed.

Agee adds that police activity was only to be directed at disreputable bars,

“both homosexual and heterosexual alike.” Cahill (appointed chief after Ahern’s death) emphasized, “I mean policing, not harassment.”

Agee highlights that with a focus on predatory criminals, Christopher and Cahill were trying to centralize police power and therefore Mayor Christopher was “rarely implicated in the discussions over the policing of the beats.” In a 1990 interview, Christopher added that because it would be difficult to prove what people were doing behind closed doors, he felt “there had to be prudence and great care taken to file charges.”

In Process of Becoming

Christopher’s eight-year tenure as mayor ended in January 1964. That he was singularly responsible for raids or made the city “increasingly hostile to queers” is not supported. Police harassment of gay bars had been in high gear years before Christopher became mayor. Rather than specifically targeting homosexuals, he was instead working to reform the SFPD and neutralize their hard-line approach.

According to former Mayor Art Agnos, Christopher believed that the mayor’s office should show the same respect to the LGBTQ+ community as to any other community. After Christopher lost a close friend to AIDS, he learned as much about the disease as he could so that he could “influence an incumbent mayor,” Agnos said. Christopher also shared with Agnos his sadness and frustration with President Ronald Reagan for his refusal to say “AIDS” at the height of the crisis.

Quoting Plato, his “old Greek countryman,” Christopher said in 1990, “Nothing ever is. It’s always in the process of becoming.” He added, “Whether we’re talking about morals or art or the gay community...there is an ever-changing kaleidoscope of events that alter the circumstances... Every kind of community in San Francisco had a right to do what they had to, or wanted to do...so that everybody, regardless of who they were, had the opportunity to get a job, and to earn a living, and to be left alone, as long as they weren’t bothering somebody else.”

Hardly the words of a rabid homophobe. Moreover, that members of the Mattachine Society—many of them San Francisco residents—unanimously saluted Christopher’s “enlightened attitude” toward homosexuals speaks volumes.

Evelyn Rose is founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project (www.GlenParkHistory.org) covering Glen Park, Glen Canyon, Park, Sunnyside, Fairmount Heights, and Diamond Heights. She is also Chief Tramping Officer of TrampsofSanFrancisco.com. Rose can be contacted at GlenParkHistory@gmail.com.

Mayor George Christopher “was a rabid homophobe.” A District 3 representative on the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee lobbied this bombshell to the *Bay Area Reporter* in February of this year while announcing his intent to propose a name change for Christopher Park in Diamond Heights.

He added that Christopher’s reorganization of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), in cooperation with the California State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), had “declared war on homosexual bars in San Francisco, reviving wartime anti-homosexual campaigns.” He claimed that as a result San Francisco had been made “increasingly hostile to queers.” His only source was a book by Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965*.

Residents of Diamond Heights, the nonprofit Friends of Christopher Park, and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman were blindsided by the accusation. So is it true?

Once a Democrat

George Christopher, San Francisco’s last Republican mayor, was once a member of the Progressive Party, and later the Democratic Party. He supported Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Work Progress Administration, which created jobs and offered hope during the Depression.



Former Mayor George Christopher. From *City-County Record*, October 1953, Archive.org

A native of Greece, Christopher was a Democrat when he announced he wanted to run for supervisor in 1945. However, the city’s Democratic boss responded, “No Greek can get elected in San Francisco.” Christopher re-registered as a Republican and was elected. While running for mayor in 1955, he enjoyed support not only from multi-ethnic groups but also from many liberal Democrats, including Eleanor Roosevelt.

Corruption Rampant

Christopher Agee, formerly of UC Berkeley and now at the University of Colorado, is an expert on the history of policing in San Francisco and coauthor of the book *Streets of San Francisco*. In another work, published in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, titled, “Gayola: Police Professionalization and the Politics of San Francisco’s Gay Bars, 1950-1968,” Agee acknowledges Boyd’s observation that policing of homosexuality in San Francisco intensified after World War II. He also agrees that in reaction to police pressure, the LGBTQ+ community rose up, organized, and demanded equal rights.

Yet, Agee asserts, it was not simply a two-sided conflict between citizens and government. The SFPD also had political motivations to “racialize and criminalize” groups to build support for police budgets. Moreover, the “high

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters, essays, art, and other forms of commentary. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write **Noe Valley Voice**, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your full name and contact information. Be aware submissions may be edited for clarity or brevity.

LETTERS 63¢

iPhones—Keep Them Out of Sight

Editor:
I was the target of a drive-by robbery June 27 on Sanchez at Clipper at around 5:15 p.m. In the spirit of building awareness and helping each other stay safe and stop the bad guys, here is what happened:

I was pushing an empty stroller, en route to my daughter's school, for pickup. I was waiting to cross the street, and looking at my phone. At the same time, a silver Kia Soul stopped behind me and in front of the Bethany United Church on Sanchez (a slow street ... with a ton of pedestrian traffic).

A 5'10" man in a gray ski mask and black hoodie exited the car, leaving his door open. He approached me from behind, grabbed for my phone, and looked me squarely in the eye. I instinctively grabbed it back (not recommended), and he pushed me and the stroller over hard, taking the phone and then running back to the car. I did not see any weapons, but in the moment I was concerned he had something in his hoodie pocket.

There were a ton of witnesses for the aftermath. Thank you to all our wonderful and protective neighbors for really showing up in a moment of crisis, helping me call 911, offering witness support, providing video evidence (yes, we got a lot of it on video!), and just being all-around compassionate humans.

I called the police and they met me at my house. Together, we watched the stolen iPhone move around the city—ultimately on its way to the Tenderloin. The police struggled to communicate the correct type of car and location (per "findmyiphone") to the dispatcher. They thought it looked like a white Toyota. But I did a quick Google image search of the car in the video in real time, and it was definitely a Kia Soul. And while the video does make the car look white, it was almost certainly silver/gray in my recollection.

The police focused first on gathering all

of my information (e.g., driver's license, an account of what happened), and once that was done, 15 or more minutes later, they called into the dispatcher to potentially get the bad guys (since we could see where they were on the "findmyiphone" map). Shortly thereafter, the phone disappeared from "findmy..." The police left me with a pamphlet on "victim services" and a recommendation to buy a new phone and to get insurance, because this happens all the time.

Here's what I've learned:

1. Moms with strollers are a target. As are older people. Per what I heard from the police.

2. Looking at your phone, even briefly, also makes you a target. Put your phone away, securely (i.e., not in the stroller caddy) while commuting.

3. You're also more vulnerable when stopped (for example, at a street corner while waiting to cross the street) vs. walking.

4. I regret grabbing my phone back. I think I would not have gotten hurt had I just let it happen. So yeah, not sure what the lesson is there ... but just something to consider.

5. Kill your phone asap. This is easy to do from your Apple computer. And you can still track the location. Police said they [the thieves] are typically not aiming to pull your data (e.g., credit cards) and they usually just erase the phone and sell it asap. Still, I was relieved to see you could track location even after you'd reported it lost/stolen and shut down the ability for the bad guys to access it.

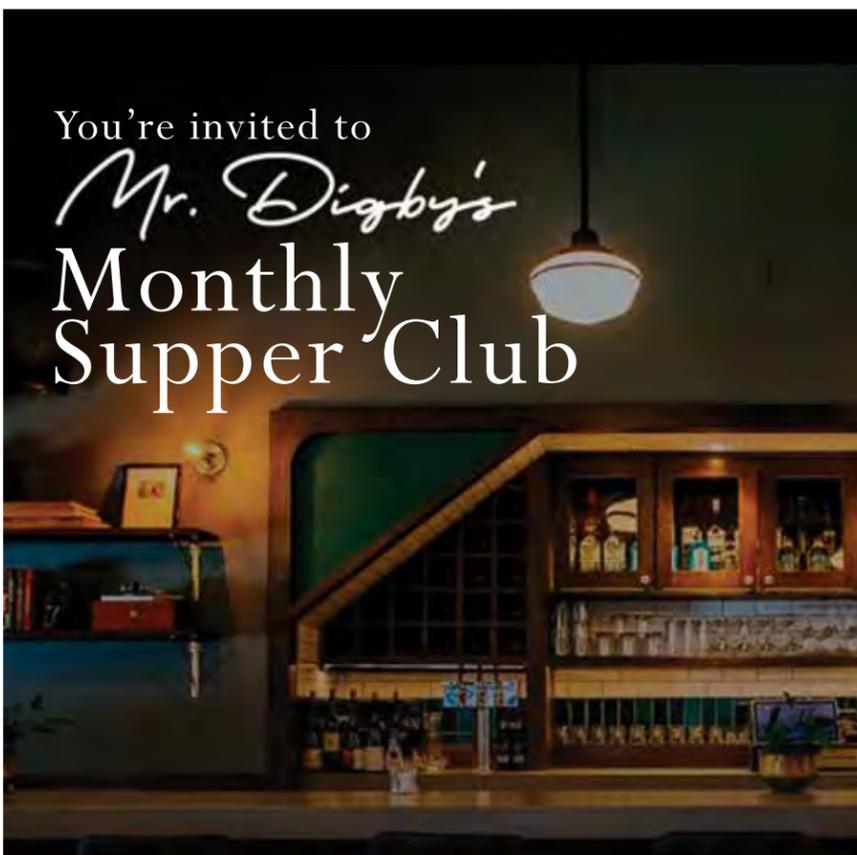
6. I continued to get updates on the "find my" app on Apple, and a day after the theft I could see that the bad guys were with my phone at the West Wind Coliseum Swap Meet. I notified the police but did not immediately hear back. No lesson here—just disappointing.

7. Get the Apple iPhone insurance. \$150 to replace an iPhone 14. (vs. \$1,100 to buy it new).

I'm sure there's a lot more to learn from these kinds of events. But that's a start.

I'm grateful for our incredible Noe community.

Name Withheld by Request



You're invited to
Mr. Digby's
Monthly Supper Club

FAMILY STYLE PRIX FIXE MENU

Join us for a one-night only dining event every third Thursday that will feature a menu of rotating themes throughout the year.

Join us 1199 Church St
Call us 415-896-4973
Find Us @mrdigbys




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

Kind Words from a Happy Home Seller!

"I cannot say enough good things about working with Danielle and her team.

I have worked with her to initially buy and then eventually sell (at a nice profit!) my first real estate investment in San Francisco. Her sage advice every step of the way, and her flawless execution throughout each detail were incredible.

Both in the purchase (where we were going up against multiple bidders) and in the eventual sale a decade later (where we were selling into a tough pandemic market), having Danielle in your corner is an absolute game changer.

If you are trying to decide between the myriad of options available to you for real estate agents in SF, just stop and hire Danielle already. You will not regret it. Highly, highly recommended!

Jay T.



Curious About the SF Real Estate Market?

Real Estate Case Studies, buyer/seller success stories, deep-dives, and more—scan the QR to see our latest posts!

When the time comes to buy or sell, we are here to help.



VIVRE REAL ESTATE
DANIELLE LAZIER · REALTOR®
415.528.7355
21 Years in Business · Noe Valley Homeowner

See more market insights and our smiling faces at
NoeValleyMarketUpdate.com DRE 01340326

Vivre is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 02014153. All material presented herein is intended for information purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified.

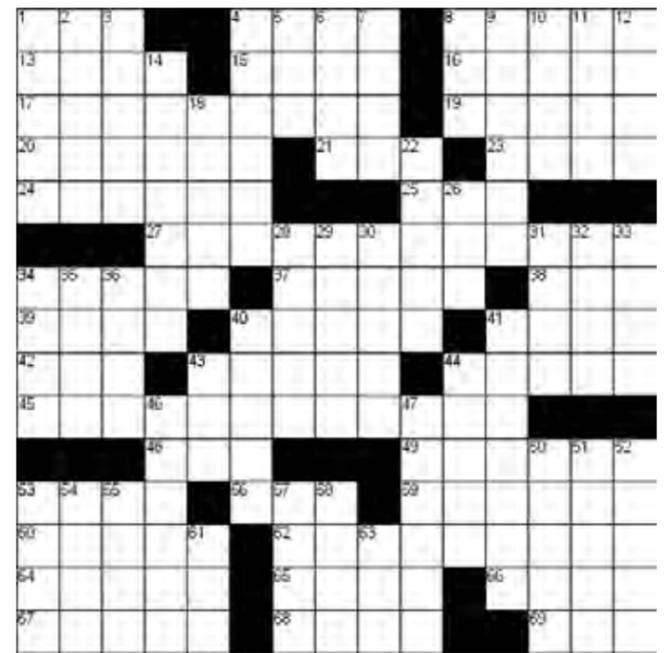
THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Noe Neighbors

ACROSS

1. Biter of Cleopatra
4. Google navigation software
8. Third-largest Japanese city
13. Indian wrap?
15. Store whose Livat is opening on Market Street
16. Ennead minus one
17. Neighboring area whose main feature is pictured in the *Voice* masthead
19. "E.T. ___ home"
20. What Krypton orbited
21. Always, in verse
23. Picks
24. *Swan Lake* heroine
25. Time past
27. Neighboring district that's now more commonly called the Castro

34. Remnant
37. Serge de ___ (cloth name that was shortened to "denim")
38. Boddington's, at the Dubliner
39. Barak or Olmert of Israel
40. Former U.N. chief Kofi
41. "Shake a leg!"
42. After Avril
43. Gulf war missiles
44. Sterling Bank offerings
45. Full name of a nearby neighborhood that has an "Outer" version nowhere near it
48. Compete
49. Honshu house mat
53. What a chimney sweep sweeps
56. Flier out of Stockholm
59. Intrinsically
60. Composer



7. Comfort, as another's pain
8. Alley ___
9. Adda Clevenger, for one
10. On the peak of
11. German philosopher Immanuel
12. Summer coolers
14. As an alternative
18. Erect
22. Poe poem, with "The"
26. What was once sold in the site of Noe Valley Town Square
28. Seen-it-all feeling
29. Sorts
30. Gather together
31. Buddhist monk
32. First name at Twitter
33. Cravings
34. Eighteen-wheeler
35. *Rush Hour* co-star Jackie
36. Destroy
40. Summits
41. Nicaraguan rebels
43. ___ Lanka
44. Hardly inclined (to)
46. Nevertheless
47. Minnesota lake that's a source of the Mississippi
50. Computer user hearing "You've got mail!"
51. Exhibiting listlessness
52. Answer to "Who's there?"
53. Old Glory
54. "Stormy Weather" Home
55. Division
57. "___ I" ("Ditto")
58. Loretta who played Hot Lips
61. "Aw, quit ___ belly achin'!"
63. Neighbor of Leb.

Solution on Page 23
Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

Couple Backs Effort To Rescind Prop. 8's 'Zombie' Language

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

couple were heartbroken when the state supreme court issued a ruling on May 26, 2009, upholding Prop. 8 in a 6-1 decision.

They would have to wait another four years before they could finally wed. In June of 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand rulings by lower federal courts that had found Prop. 8 to be unconstitutional. The case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, had first been heard by a district court in San Francisco.

It paved the way for Borenstein and Strauss to say "I do" to each other on July 19, 2013, during a ceremony held at San Francisco City Hall.

As for Prop. 8, it largely had receded from their minds until last summer, when the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court rescinded a federal right to abortion. The ruling alarmed LGBTQ+ advocates in California, who feared the nation's top court also might reexamine its 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which established a federal right to marriage for same-sex couples. Should that ruling be reversed, it could revive Prop. 8's "zombie language," which remains embedded in the California state constitution.

"I have to confess I had not thought about the fact that Prop. 8 was still part of our constitution in California. When somebody mentioned it to me, I was stunned," said Borenstein, who with Strauss has been living on 24th Street for 31 years. "Then I realized it is just like the anti-abortion laws that had been passed in the states. As soon as *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, there were all these states where these abortion bans sprang back into life."

She now is concerned she might see the same thing happen with Prop. 8.

"I never really thought about the fact that Prop. 8 was still there. It didn't get repealed somehow, not withstanding all the good case law that said that it was invalid," said Borenstein. "Once I understood this was just like those terrible abortion bans that would kick back into life, I knew we had to do something."

The Goal: Erasing Law

To ensure marriage isn't once again defined as being between a man and a woman in California, LGBTQ+ advocates want to return to the November ballot in 2024 with a measure that would fully erase Prop. 8 from state statutes. State lawmakers are expected to approve this summer what is known as Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5. Should voters approve it next year, the amendment would excise Prop. 8's language from the state's governing document. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors in June, during annual Pride Month, unanimously adopted a resolution in support of ACA 5.

Borenstein says she has confidence the state's voters, if given the chance, will adopt ACA 5, bringing Prop. 8's homophobic legacy to an end.

"This will be such a benchmark to show change. I think everything about this will be different, including the end result in terms of numbers," said Borenstein. "The world has changed. There are all these marriages, and nobody's marriage has been threatened by the fact same-sex couples have been marrying."

Noe Valley-based attorney Charles Spiegel, a gay man who is involved in several local political activist groups,



Ruth Borenstein (left) and Karen Strauss want to ensure that recent attacks on women's rights like the dismantling of *Roe v. Wade* do not embolden those who would roll back equal protections in marriage, which the couple fought hard to obtain a decade ago. Photo by Art Bodner

also hopes to see Prop. 8 repealed. He told the *Voice* doing so was analogous to the efforts to do away with racist housing covenants that remain inserted in property deeds.

Although such home-buying restrictions "cannot be enforced due to judicial rulings," noted Spiegel, they "remain in our land records, so when you buy a home in California and other states, you are told they exist but are not enforceable. Like removing those racist housing covenants, it's time to fully remove anti-LGBTQ+ Prop. 8's continued existence from our legal records and to do so through a vote of our California citizen neighbors."

Spiegel is a former national board co-chair of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In May, the nonprofit civil rights organization honored Borenstein and Strauss at its San Francisco Soirée gala and fundraiser. Although their lawsuit against Prop. 8 was unsuccessful, it did result in the California Supreme Court upholding the nearly 18,000 same-sex marriages that took place in 2008 before the ballot measure became law.

Jennifer Pizer, chief legal officer of Lambda Legal, praised the couple, saying, "The case established essential due process rights of all Californians, and it took great courage for these women and our other plaintiffs to participate in that high-profile case—to be public about how Prop. 8 denied them and their loved ones happiness and legal security in the face of health threats and other vulnerabilities. They offered their stories on behalf of a community targeted, demeaned, and denied basic rights. Their openness was key to the dramatic buyers' remorse among Golden State voters that emerged after the initiative's passage."

Equal Is for Everyone

While Strauss, 65, is now retired as the chief of the city's Main Library, Borenstein continues to work as the legislation and policy chair for the California chapter of the advocacy organization Brady: United Against Gun Violence. She will celebrate her 67th birthday this month.

Thinking back on the campaign to defeat Prop. 8, Borenstein said she believed if voters had understood that the wording of Prop. 8 meant they

would be blocking same-sex couples from marrying, then a majority would have voted against it. "I remember stories at the time talking about voter confusion. I would like to think generally, and I am not the sunshine optimist, but I do think there would have been a different result if things had been more straightforward," she said.

Just as they had put themselves in front of the public eye with their legal challenge against Prop. 8, Borenstein

said she and Strauss would be willing to play a public role in repealing Prop. 8 language next year if asked to do so by leaders of the campaign.

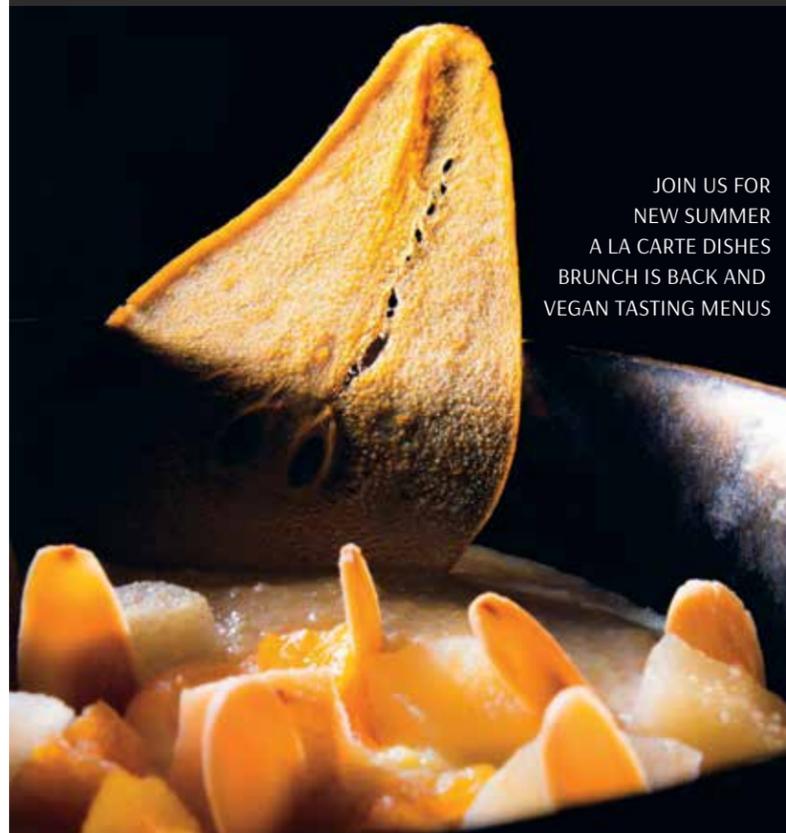
"Absolutely, we will stand up for our rights in every way we can," said Borenstein. "It still rankles me that we live in a world where our equal rights get voted on. It boggles the mind. Since that is the world we live in, we will do everything we can to make sure it is a resounding majority in our favor." ■

BIRCH & RYE

MODERN RUSSIAN KITCHEN

OPEN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
RESERVATIONS & WALK-INS WELCOME

An exclusive offer for our neighborhood - receive a
free caviar bite with the purchase of any entree
(Expires July 31, 2023)



JOIN US FOR
NEW SUMMER
A LA CARTE DISHES
BRUNCH IS BACK AND
VEGAN TASTING MENUS

1320 CASTRO ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114
(415) 796-2265 | www.birchandryesf.com



Work With The Best In 2023 JESSICA BRANSON

- Top 4 San Francisco Listing Agent 2022
- Top 9 Overall San Francisco Agent 2022
- Top 6 Listing & Overall SF Agent Q1 2023
- Noe Valley Property Owner
- Stellar marketing, intelligent strategy, amazing results!

The NY Times reported on June 26th that "...housing seems to be finding a burst of renewed momentum... Home construction surged and May prices have ticked up, even with interest rates at a 15-year high. The resilience [of the housing market] has surprised some economists." We are seeing that same resilience in SF as well, as buyers duke it out over the one or two good homes that come on the market each month. The low inventory, and the feeding frenzy that ensues when a good home is listed has inspired new strategies for savvy agents. Jessica has had success selling several homes "off market" recently — each one that she advertised sold for the target price or higher, within 1-2 days of word getting out, & the seller did not need to do much at all to prepare. If you have been considering selling, call Jessica to explore what creative options are available to you in this fascinating market.

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

Jessica@JessicaBranson.com | www.JessicaBranson.com | DRE 01729408



1712 Noe | \$1,795,000 | Pending after 3 days!
www.NoeDream.com



368 Moultrie | \$2,475,000
Sold Off Market for \$1,471/sqft!



21 Homestead | \$2.5M | Condo Sale \$305k Over Asking!
www.ViewsInNoe.com

Compass is a licensed real estate broker (01991628) in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdraw without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Stats based on 2022 & Q1 2023 SFH MLS data at the time of print.

COMPASS



FIREFLY
RESTAURANT

"great food, weird staff"

Open for Indoor and Outdoor Dining
Tues. - Sat. 5:30 - 8:30

fireflysf.com/reservations

4288 24th St. • San Francisco • 415.821.7652

Fireflysf.com

Writers!

July 15 is the deadline
for inclusion in the
August Literary Edition

Please email your
submission to

editor@noevalleyvoice.com

750 words maximum
and include a short bio.

Thank You.

CHUNG 24 GALLERY (presents)

Liz Steketeer
solo exhibition

curated by
Ann Jastrab

REMNANTS
MAY 31 - JULY 22, 2023

CHUNG 24 GALLERY
4071 24th Street
San Francisco
California
94114

chung24gallery.com

Advertise it Here!

The Noe Valley Voice is your best and
most affordable way
to get the word out on your business.

Call Pat Rose today & see
how easy it can be!

415-608-7634

patrose@noevalleyvoice.com

Books to Carry This Summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drawn in by the fascinating premise of a serial killer, but the story is narrated by the women in his life, including his latest captive. The tension was so sharp I was unable to stop reading.”

A book she found equally hard to put down was *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel. It’s perfect “for anyone who likes true crime, art history, or art theft.” And there’s good news for fans of science fiction, Argyres says. Martha Wells, author of *The Murderbot Diaries*, has penned *Witch King*. And its wily protagonist, having been trapped in a watery tomb for years, is ready to do whatever magic is necessary to survive in a strange new world.

Recipes for a Cookout

Omnivore Books on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez, will have you salivating over its summer collection of cookbooks. “We love these books,” says store owner Celia Sack, “because they remind us of what summer should be (but usually isn’t here): sun-splashed, cocktail-filled, camping-friendly, and cooking in outdoor ovens!”

Sack hopes *Foods of the Italian Islands*, by Rome-based food writer Katie Parla, can take you on a vacation tour of Mediterranean island cuisine.

Then, *Cook It Wild*, by Toronto author Chris Nuttall-Smith, will give you the skinny on meals for “cabins, camping, and the great outdoors.”

Cocktail makers, Sack says, will find much to love in *The Ice Book*, by Camper English, including how to add a tiny flag to a cube.

Soon to become a favorite summer read is *Tandoori Home Cooking* by chef Maunika Gowardhan. It has 70 recipes you can do in the kitchen. But why not grill the fish and vegetables outside?

A free author event at Omnivore on July 22 at 3 p.m., featuring chef Pailin Chongchitnant Sabai, should whet your appetite for *100 Simple Thai Recipes for Any Day of the Week*. Sack notes this is the first visit to Noe Valley for YouTube star Sabai, so get there early to find a seat.

Library Cupboards

Little free libraries throughout the Valley were a boon to readers during Covid, and they are still crammed with donations and “checkouts” today. You can find everything from novels to self-help books and occasionally a medical text or a business how-to manual.

Five years ago, Joellen Brainin-Rodriguez found an old cupboard, painted it yellow, and put it out in front of her house on 27th Street, right by Douglass Street. The Dog Park Library, as she calls it, was inspired by her “grandkids, who read in English and Spanish,” so Brainin-Rodriguez makes a point of curating foreign-language books in the mix. “It gives me pleasure to see people bending down and looking through it,” she says.

The little free library set out by Bethany United Methodist Church in May 2021 “gets a lot of traction,” according to Pastor Sadie Smith. “We just had the library decorated by San Francisco Richmond Yarn Buddies, for International Yarn Bombing Day, and [the knitted street art] looks really cute!”

Smith also notes, “We received a donation of children’s books from the Noe Valley Library, which I’ve been placing in the little free library over the past year. [They] go quickly.”

Scenic Seats Outdoors

And, of course, there is a brisk trade at the little free library at the Noe Valley Town Square, which also rates as one of our top Places to Sit Outside and Read. With tables for that all important beverage and seating in a choice of sun or shade, the town square ticks all the boxes.

You will also find a significant number of benches (thank you, Noe Valley Association!) along 24th Street, not to mention the outdoor seating of eateries and drinkeries. Keep going up 24th Street to Douglass Street, and a whole city park, Noe Courts, awaits you, with benches and playground.

But let’s go outside Central Noe Valley and find some scenic seats in the ’hood. Up on Billy Goat Hill at 30th and Castro, a rustic hill-set bench gives you a delightful view and shelter from the wind. Over at the Duncan and Castro Open Space, your only other



Celia Sack peers over a mountain of books at Omnivore Books on Food. But the hill will grow higher. Chef Pailin Sabai is bringing *100 Simple Thai Recipes* July 22. Photo by Art Bodner

bench-sitters will be the dog walkers, who, like you, are enjoying the spectacular vista. And if you didn’t bring a book with you, hop down the Castro steps to 530 28th St., where the little free library recently had a copy of the

classic Ernest Gaines novel *A Lesson Before Dying*.

Don’t forget the parks up at Douglass and 26th Street and 30th and Sanchez (aka our neighborhood recreation center, with bathroom no less). ■



Polly Amber Ross was among the star performers raising money for the non-profit Trans Heartline at the wildly successful Drag Show at Bethany Church June 28. Photo by Art Bodner

**SUMMER
2023**
AT
ART HAUS
ART CAMPS
KIDS 7-12
LIFE DRAWING
BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE
ADULT CLASSES
PRIVATE AND GROUP

For more information on Programs, Artist Calls, Gallery Hours, and Commissioned Artwork, please contact us: info@arthausf.com

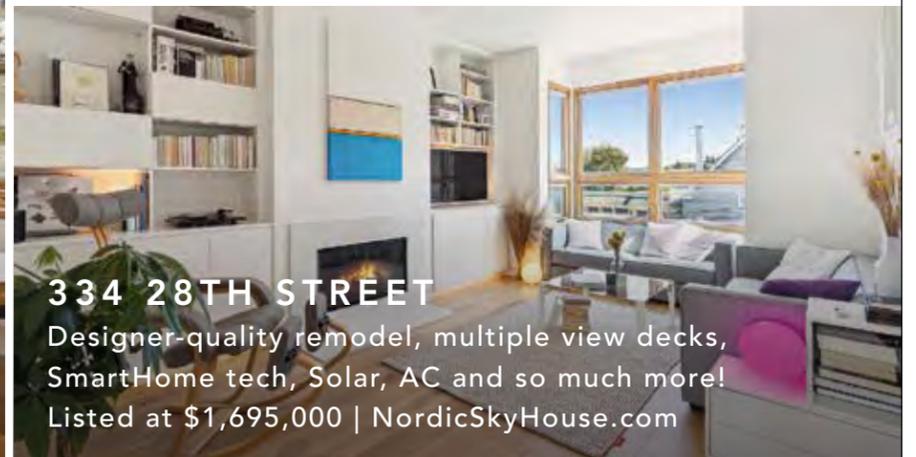
707.363.9301

3977 24th Street





*Panoramic View
Home in Noe Valley*



334 28TH STREET

Designer-quality remodel, multiple view decks,
SmartHome tech, Solar, AC and so much more!
Listed at \$1,695,000 | NordicSkyHouse.com



corcoran

ICON PROPERTIES

Stefano DeZerega

REALTOR® | LIC# 01730431
415.987.7833 | SellingSF.com
sdezerega@corcoranicon.com

Hugh Grocock

Broker Associate | LIC# 01209589
415.971.4414 | HughGrocock.com
hugh@hughgrocock.com

Representing buyers and
sellers in Noe Valley and
throughout the City.

©2023 Corcoran Icon Properties. All rights reserved. Corcoran® and the Corcoran Logo are registered service marks owned by Corcoran Group LLC. Corcoran Icon Properties fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated. Information is deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed.

Saving on HOA Insurance has never been easier.



Bay area leading insurance
provider for condo associations.



Up to 40% savings compared to
other carriers.



Dedicated agents that help you
get the coverage you really need.



Hassle-Free online quote in less
than 5 minutes.

Get an instant quote online or call:
honeycombinsurance.com
415.569.0148



Ambassadors Take to 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the merchants and a lot of the people in the neighborhood stopped us and asked why we were here—some didn't know what the program was."

The program began in January 2020 to address San Francisco's shortage of active police officers.

"The first location was Union Square and Chinatown, and it has since expanded throughout the city," Elieff said. "District supervisors decide if they'd like to have ambassadors walk the beat in an area where there's a lot of merchants and the ambassadors are the liaison between the community and the department, and they are there to assist on the reporting of a crime and contacting law enforcement if there's a need for a police report to be made."

That's district supervisors like Rafael Mandelman, who represents Noe Valley on the city's board of supervisors. He was instrumental in getting the ambassadors assigned.

"Twelfth-fourth Street used to have a beat officer, and I would love to see that restored, although SFPD staffing shortages make that impossible in the near term," Mandelman said. "In the meantime, I advocated to have ambassadors assigned to 24th Street, and I am grateful that the mayor responded."

Dave Burke, a civilian SFPD liaison who works in Mandelman's office, says the ambassadors have made all the difference down the hill in the Castro, where he's worked with the SFPD ambassador program since its inception.

"Having retired SFPD officers come back to the department in this new role has been a big part of the recent

improvements to the street conditions in the Castro," Burke said. "They literally bring decades of invaluable experience to the neighborhoods that they serve. I'm excited to see them deployed along 24th Street in Noe Valley and urge neighbors and merchants in Noe Valley to engage with them—even to just say hello."

Ramos said the ambassadors have radios allowing them to talk to SFPD officers at any time.

"We tell people how to file a police report," Ramos said. "It's been really positive. A lot of people have come up and told us they're glad we're here. It's a nice area to patrol."

Noe Valley Town Square events coordinator Leslie Crawford says she is pleased with the addition.

"I think it is good to have this kind of SFPD presence in our commercial district, where there is an absolute need," she said.

Not all ambassadors in San Francisco are part of the SFPD Community Ambassadors program, Elieff said. There are other types of ambassador groups helping to supplement the city's foot-beat patrols. Urban Alchemy ambassadors serve in the Tenderloin and Mid-Market areas. Welcome Ambassadors walk the Downtown, Union Square, and tourist areas. BART also has a community ambassador program.

In May, the city deployed 16 new Community Connectors in the Mission district, ambassadors tasked with connecting residents and merchants to services, clearing pathways for public spaces, aiding 3-1-1 reports, and making referrals to crisis teams if needed.

The Community Ambassadors Program (CAP), which dates from 2010, accepts applications from people who meet certain qualifications and



Members of the newest safety patrol in Noe Valley can be identified by their blue jackets emblazoned with "SFPD Community Ambassador." The program's coordinator says citizens should not hesitate to ask the ambassadors for help, if a situation arises. Photo by Art Bodner

those who wish to become trainees. It is run through the mayor's office and is active in a dozen neighborhoods, with

about 50 ambassadors.

For information, contact community.ambassadors@sfgov.org. ■



Officer K. Kensic and other members of the SFPD's Bomb Squad visited the Noe Valley Town Square on "Heroes Day" June 18 and gave kids a chance to operate their smallest robot, a Dragon Runner. Though a few observers remained skeptical, D.R. traveled easily along the sidewalk and even mesmerized a local labrador retriever. All was well. Photo by Art Bodner

I'M HONORED TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S



RealTrends America's Best Real Estate Professionals

Check out more testimonials on Claudia's Website



Claudia Siegel, Realtor®
415.816.2811 | ClaudiaSiegel.com | DRE

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

COMPASS

ON SALE

...at The Good Life Grocery



Clover Butter
16 oz
\$4.99



Leisure Hydration Drinks
16 oz
\$2/6



Clover Organic Brown Eggs
1 dozen
\$3.99



Kettle Chips
5 oz -reg 5.29
2/\$7



Stacy's Pita Chips
7.33 oz -reg 4.49
2/\$7



Halo Pop Fruit Pops
12 ct -reg 9.99
\$5.49



Straus Ice Cream
16 oz -reg 6.49
\$5.49



Tillamook Shredded Cheeses
8 oz -reg 5.79
\$4.29



Local! Non-GMO
Dwellely Family Farms
Premium Fruits and Vegetables



Kettle Chips Backyard Barbeque
5 oz -reg 5.29
2/\$7



Schwarz 49er Beef Hot Dogs
50 ¢ Off/lb



Stacy's Pita Chips
7.33 oz -reg 4.49
2/\$7



Mr. Dewie's Cashew Creamery
Try Out Our New Ice Creams!



Marianne's ICE CREAM
Santa Cruz

Store Hours:
7:00 am - 9:00 pm
Every Day!

We Accept:
ATM Cards
Discover Cards
MasterCard & Visa
Elec. Food Stamps & EBT

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT THE GOOD LIFE



448 Cortland Avenue • Bernal Heights • San Francisco • 94110

Long Summer Days... Fog Then Sun Parties, Picnics & Baseball... Bring it On!
Sales effective July 3-28, 2023

Free Parking
Across the Street
In our Very Own
Parking Lot!

State of the Market

Noe Valley

NUMBERS SOLD FROM APRIL 1, 2023 TO JUNE 29, 2023
Numbers reflect where the Noe Valley market is as of this writing

Property Type	Active	Pending	Sold	Average Sales Price	Average \$/Sq Ft	YOY Avg % Change
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES	11 < \$3M	3 < \$3M	20 < \$3M	\$2,109,306	\$1,140	-16.7%
CONDOS	7 \$3M+	1 \$3M+	7 \$3M+	\$4,981,600	\$1,392	-9.9%
DUPLEXES	6 < \$2.5M	10 < \$2.5M	12 < \$2.5M	\$1,485,667	\$1,135	-2.3%
TRIPLEXES	0 \$2.5M+	0 \$2.5M+	4 \$2.5M+	\$3,089,000	\$1,330	+9.0%
QUADPLEXES	5 < \$2.5M	2 < \$2.5M	2 < \$2.5M	\$2,322,500	\$721	-8.3%
OTHER	1 \$2.5M+	1 \$2.5M+	1 \$2.5M+	\$2,550,000	\$850	-18.7%



The Brannigan Team | Compass

As we always say, just looking at the data points without context is striking and often times confusing. We are seeing inventory increase compared to what was available this Spring. Traditionally, we see seasonal changes in real estate, but this past Spring has not seen a great number of sales in any sector due to various factors.

The Fed's dot plot is now showing a terminal interest rate of 5.6% by the end of 2023. They foresee at least two more 25bps rate hikes, with the first coming next month and the final one slated for September. Rate cuts have essentially been taken off the table for this year. Relatedly, getting a mortgage has been tough as lenders lose their appetite for riskier loans after the recent banking turmoil. These conditions have created some difficulty for first-time buyers and multi-unit investors to secure financing.

Whether buying or selling, we're happy to help you come up with a personalized plan to succeed in this everchanging market.

Want To Know Your Home's Worth? Scan the Code Below

Silvia Zeng
415.335.3975 | DRE 01986529
Info@TeamBrannigan.com
www.TheBrannigan.Team



SHORT TAKES

New Classical in Season

The 30-year-old Noe Music series sold out more than half of its concerts in its most recent season at Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, 1021 Sanchez St. The popular chamber ensemble series has won praise for its musical excellence and innovative programming and in what co-founder Meena Bhasin describes as “one of the best venues to experience live acoustic music.”

So it's time to find your seats for the upcoming 2023-24 season.

Opening night on Sept. 17 will feature Schubert's quintet *Trout* followed by a screening of Buster Keaton's 1925 film *Silent Chances*, with live musical accompaniment.

Other highlights in the eight-concert series include the Danish trio Dreamers' Circus performing complex folk, jazz, and classical (Oct. 15); the Dior String Quartet with roots in Israel, Korea-Canada, and Saint Lucia (Nov. 12); jazz vocalist Sarah Elizabeth Charles and pianist Jarrett Cherner (Dec. 3); and Silkroad Ensemble members Kinan Azmeh, Haruka Fujii, and Karen Ouzounian playing contemporary classical sounds from Syria, Japan, and Armenia (Jan. 14).

The final date, on April 14, will be an appearance by the San Francisco wind octet Nomad Session with “low reed” bass clarinetist Jeff Anderle.

All concerts take place on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. and offer free childcare. (It helps that Bhasin and co-founder Owen Dalby are parents.)

Subscribers can go to NoeMusic.org and order one of three packages. The Golden Ticket gets you seats at all eight performances, either in reserved—think inches away from your favorite cellist—or in general seating. If you have fewer Sundays free, you can pick up the “For the Curious” package, and

attend any five concerts during the season. You also can purchase single tickets starting in August.

Lanier Firing Up the Kiln

If you walk along Eureka and look up at the playground of Alvarado Elementary School, you can admire the giant ceramic mural that graces the main wall. Noe Valley ceramic artist Paul Lanier made the mural with another Noe Valley artist, Nancy Thompson, and with the help of teachers, students, and Alvarado families. It took two years to make and is made up of 1,300 individual handmade pieces. It was dedicated to Ruth Asawa in 2001.

Lanier built the school's clay studio and was an artist-in-residence at Alvarado for nine years. (His kids were students there, and Lanier himself attended in the late 1960s.) He continues to make ceramics, as well as fabricate wall treatments for designers in San Francisco, New York, and Seattle. He also makes tiles, lamps, and sculptural works on commission.

Lanier's introduction to ceramics is also local. Besides coming from a family of artists, he studied with Ruby O'Burke at Ruby's Clay Studio on Noe and 19th streets, and also with local artist Earle Curtis when Curtis was an artist-in-residence at a local high school. Lanier later studied with Bauhaus master Marguerite Wildenhain at Pond Farm in Guerneville.

Now he is having a show of “Selected Works” in St. Helena in Napa. The opening reception is Sunday, July 23, at 3 p.m., at Carter and Company, 1231 Main St., and the show will run through Aug. 6.

“There will be cups, pitchers, vases, a few sculptures, my paintings, and a few bronze pieces,” says Lanier. He adds that he is having fun making new works for the show. “Firing the salt kiln up at Richard Carter's ranch will be like going back in time. Before the pandemic and wildfires, our crew of potters would regularly gather to fire the [Japanese] anagama kiln. Now that we have ‘survived’ the pandemic, we all are looking forward to working together on really beautiful pots and sculp-



Noe Valley artist Paul Lanier is showing paintings and ceramic and bronze works at Carter and Company in St. Helena July 23 to Aug. 6.

tures.” To see samples, check out Lanier's Instagram at @shigarocky or visit www.carterandco.com.

Steering Slow Sanchez

Wearing their distinctive blue tee shirts, the Friends of Slow Sanchez were out June 16 at the Noe Valley Town Square to share good news and to invite more chalk drawers, weed pullers, and plant waterers to join the group.

Members Andrew Casteel, Cat Crockett, and Steve Werek were all smiles about being awarded funds for new, more permanent planters, thanks to a neighborhood beautification grant from Friends of Noe Valley. A set of volunteers waters the current pots, which sit behind the slow street's soft posts.

As Casteel explains it, the planters, which can be moved to provide access for emergency vehicles, provide a “mental speed bump” to drivers who may become inured to signs. “When they see something they don't expect, they slow down.”

Like the planters, Casteel notes, the murals and the regular “chalk-a-block”

street art have a calming effect on traffic. “The beautification has an important safety impact.”

A May survey the group posted on SlowSanchez.com and other social media, and sent out by email to members (and by flyer to households along Sanchez), returned a clear message. “The number one response,” said Casteel, “was that people want more trash cans.” (He urged interested parties to call 311 to request bins from the Department of Public Works.)

The survey garnered other bits of information from its 379 respondents:

—90% of all respondents are supportive (of Slow Sanchez).

—80% of on-Sanchez residents are supportive.

—A majority of users on Slow Sanchez use it more than three days a week.

—More than 60% of respondents walk and run more than three days a week.

—More than 40% respondents use it for their daily commute and essentials without using vehicles. (Approximately 20% use vehicles for the same purpose.)

Werek said Sanchez will join the annual Phoenix Day street party, scheduled this year for Oct. 15. “Every year, more neighborhood and non-profit groups come.” And there is sure to be a firetruck “swamped by little kids,” he said. But to host that and other events and to keep the place clean, beautiful, and safe, more volunteers are needed.

For more information or to volunteer, visit SlowSanchez.com.

SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Call for Female Directors

Girls, it's time to make a movie. Who knows, you might follow in the footsteps of star directors Ava DuVernay, Nora Ephron, or Chloe Zhao.

The eighth annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival (NVGFF) is asking girls 15 or younger, from Noe Valley and beyond, to submit a five-minute film by the festival's Aug. 20 deadline.

The top films will be chosen for screening at this year's festival, set for Saturday, Sept. 9, 4 p.m., in the upstairs hall at the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, 1021 Sanchez St.

“We are super excited to get to screen our films this year. It's going to be awesome,” said local resident Caitlin Kane, 17, one of the event's organizers.

Kane stressed that filmmakers do not need to have prior experience or fancy equipment.

“All you need is an iPhone or iPad,” Kane said, and you can pick any subject or story line, as long as the film is G-rated. “Your limit is what you can think of. I know that sounds very cliché-ish, but it doesn't need to be serious or perfect.”

Cash awards ranging from \$50 to \$250 will be given to the top films in two age groups. To submit films or for more information go to www.nvgff.com or call 415-606-6558.

The NVGFF also is seeking sponsors to help put on the event. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the group's fiscal agent the Noe Valley Association, 1330 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

A group of girls from Noe Valley founded the festival in 2016. Their goal was to have fun and to empower girls in the art of filmmaking. Last year, the competition attracted some 150 entries from around the world, including Ukraine, China, and France.

The current NVGFF team has 14 new members, including Clair Kane 13, Scarlett Sedwick, 13, Lucy Fraga, 14, Eleanor Borek, 13, Emmanuelle Seguritan, 13, Ashni Singh, 13, Paloma Edgeworth, 13, Shreya Aghi, 13, Charlotte Furey, 13, Annabelle Garfinkel, 13, Avery Kim, 13, Louise Roadcap, 13, Olivia Roadcap, 13, Zoya Sarangan, 14, Marissa Higgins, 13, and Margaret Smith, 13.

—Corrie M. Anders

NOVY
4000 24TH ST @ NOE ST

NOVY
GREEK RESTAURANT

NOVYSF.COM
(415) 829-8383



ADDA CLEVINGER
EST. 1980

ARTS

ATHLETICS

CHARACTER-BUILDING

ACCELERATED ACADEMICS

TK

-
8th Grade

Where students get more from their school day!

ENROLL TODAY

www.addaclevenger.org

180 Fair Oaks Street San Francisco, CA 94110 (415)824-2240

ST. JAMES SCHOOL



WE SUCCEED TOGETHER!
PODEMOS HACERLO!

- Blended Learning
- Spanish Classes
- Affordable Tuition
- Team Sports
- Extended Care Program



Proudly Celebrating 99 Years
Prayer, Study, Service & Community

321 Fair Oaks
San Francisco, CA 94110
SaintJamesSF.org
admissions@sjsSF.net
415-647-8972



Open Enrollment
Apply Today!
Kindergarten - 8th Grade



ST. PHILIP'S SCHOOL OF SAN FRANCISCO

FAITH • ACADEMICS • COMMUNITY • ENRICHMENT



Now Enrolling for the 2023—2024 School Year

Celebrating over 80 Years of Faith, Academics, Community, and Enrichment in the Heart of the Noe Valley.

Find out more at saintphilipschool.org

665 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

info@saintphilipschool.org



The Conscience of the world is closely related to the way you feel.



SMALL FRY'S
3985 24th Street 415-648-3954 www.smallfrys.com

SHORT TAKES

50 Years of Sustainability

Planet Drum is 50 years old this year. The eco-awareness organization, started by Noe Valley activists Peter Berg and Judy Goldhaft, will celebrate the anniversary with a series of historical and ecological walks, talks, and parties over the next few months.

First up is a series of walks led by popular natural history writer and scholar Joel Pomerantz. Stroll around the Tank Hill Spring Loop on July 30, then explore the Bernal Lowlands Aug. 20, and then on Sept. 17 join a trek in Glen Canyon. Reserve a spot in the group by emailing mail@planetdrum.org.

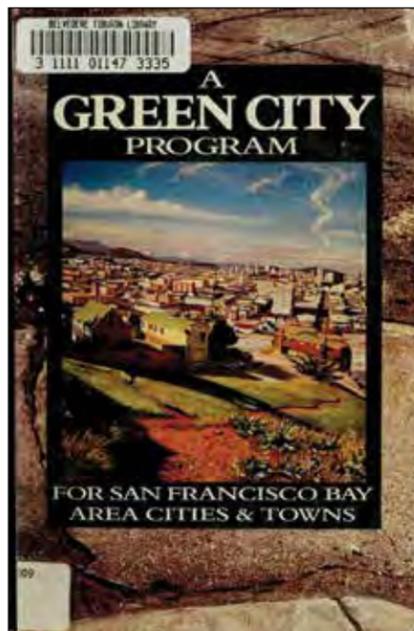
In the coming months, you can view an exhibit of Planet Drum archives at the San Francisco Main Library (Sept.-Dec.), see slides of local natural areas by Greg Gaar (Sept. 22), walk the Polin Springs Watershed (Oct. 15), and finish with a grand party at Bay Natives Garden at Heron Head (Oct. 22). There's also a celebration in Paris Dec. 9-11. Use the email address above to get invitations to all these events.

Berg and Goldhaft founded Planet Drum in 1973, after they returned to the Bay Area from a cross-country road trip. They moved the organization's office to the basement of their new home on 30th Street in 1974. It remains there today, a center for volunteers and archives, next to their 125-foot-long street garden of native plants.

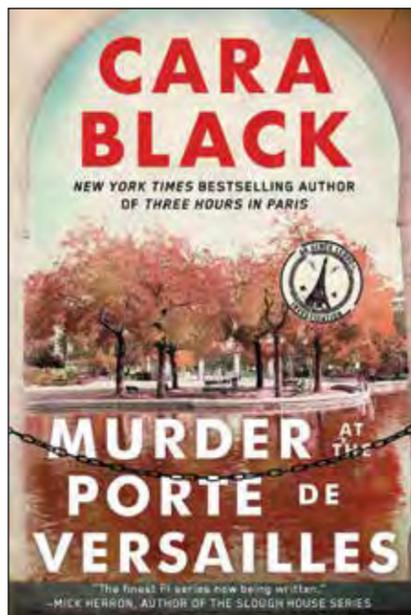
"Everywhere we went," said Goldhaft, "no matter how far off the superhighway, there was an ecological catastrophe happening," including polluted rivers and pesticide use. They reached out to like-minded comrades to launch the first Planet Drum newsletter, which assembled "bundles" of writing, maps, and images on the crisis.

Berg reintroduced the 19th-century concept of a "bioregion" to describe places in terms of their climate, watershed, animals, plants, and, crucially, humans.

In 1986, Planet Drum's Green City Program held a series of symposia for government agencies, businesses, and ecologists in San Francisco, and published a similarly titled manual, which you can still find on Amazon. Since that start, the Green Cities Program has become an international model.



As this well-worn library copy attests, *A Green City Program*, one of Planet Drum's eco-manuals from the 1980s, is still on the table today. Help Planet Drum celebrate 50 years by attending a series of local walks and talks this summer and fall.



Two of Noe Valley's best-known authors are guests of the Odd Mondays series at Bethany United Methodist Church on Monday, July 17: Cara Black and Mary Jo McConahay.

A half-century on, the Planet Drum Foundation continues to sound the beat for awareness, sustainability, and activism. As Goldhaft says, "Plunge into a love affair with your place!"

Catch Up With Cara Black and Mary Jo McConahay

The Odd Mondays event series welcomes two masters of the writing craft in July. Award-winning novelist Cara Black and equally respected author-journalist Mary Jo McConahay, both residents of Noe Valley, will read from their newest work and discuss their research technique on Monday, July 17, from 7 to 8 p.m., at Bethany Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St. Admission is free. Both authors are longtime Noe Valley residents.

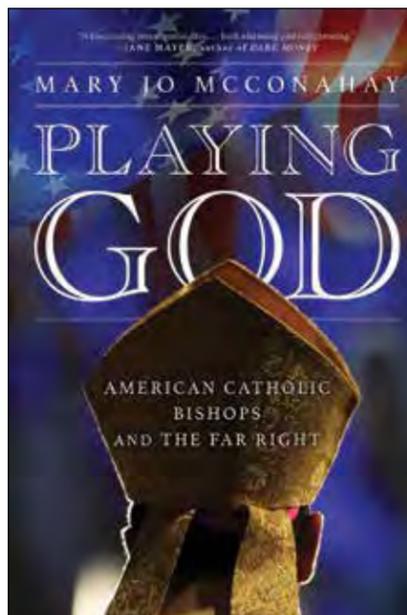
Black is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 20 books in the Private Investigator Aimée Leduc series set in Paris in the 1990s. She also penned two World War II mysteries featuring American markswoman Kate Rees. Black has received a *Washington Post* Book World Book of the Year citation and multiple nominations for Anthony and Macavity Awards. But she may be most proud of winning the Médaille de la Ville de Paris—the Paris City Medal awarded in recognition of contributions to international culture.

Currently she is working on *Murder at La Villette*, due out in March of next year. To her newsletter fans she writes, "Let us know if you're interested in an April in Paris trip next year. Here's a taste of what we did [this year]: <https://carablack.com/paris-travel-2/paris-travel/>."

McConahay is one of the most prominent Catholic journalists in America as well as a war correspondent who covered Central American insurgencies in the 1980s. Her previous books, including *The Tango War: The Struggle for the Hearts, Minds, and Riches of Latin America During World War II* (2018), *Ricochet: Two Women War Reporters and a Friendship Under Fire* (2016), and *Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey Among the People of the Rainforest* (2011), have received many accolades.

McConahay recently published "Power and Resistance in the Catholic Church: A Reading List" (see [Lithub.com](https://lithub.com)). It's a guide to the literature she relied on while writing her latest book, *Playing God: American Catholic Bishops and the Far Right* (2023).

Books will be available at the event for purchase and signing. Odd Mondays is Noe Valley's event series, now in its 22nd year.



Annual and Perennial Gardens

Noe Valley turned out in force on May 6 for the 2023 Noe Valley Garden Tour, sponsored by the residents group Friends of Noe Valley. Co-organizer Linda Lockyer reports the event drew the largest crowd ever, with over 400 tickets sold. "We ran out of tickets and had to xerox some," she said.

Owners of the six gardens on display fielded comments all day long, many "specific questions about plants," said Lockyer. "During Covid, it seems a lot of people started gardens and got into looking at other people's gardens."

The first tour, 12 years ago, featured more professional gardeners' projects but, she noted, "People want to see

more owner-gardeners' gardens. Vegetable gardens are a draw. People want to know about [micro-climates] in Noe Valley."

The proceeds from ticket and raffle ticket sales—estimated in the thousands—are going toward neighborhood beautification projects.

This year, the group Friends of Slow Sanchez will receive funding for planters in intersections on Sanchez Street. The Noe Valley Town Square will get some new umbrellas or benches, thanks to a request by the Noe Valley Community Benefit District, which takes care of the 24th Street park maintenance.

Next year's garden tour will again take place the first weekend in May and will showcase another set of awesome plants and flowers, and a new round of beneficiaries.

Lockyer says Noe Valley has no shortage of eager gardeners. "Usually, when we put feelers out, people come forward," she said.

If hanging out in a verdant oasis for a couple of hours appeals to you, be sure to sign up to be a greeter next year. More than 40 volunteers are needed, and you get a free ticket for the day.

And if you run across any of the Garden Tour Committee (Linda Lockyer, Peggy Cling, Lisa Erdos, Arete Nicholas, Jana King, Michelle Echenique, Karin Levenberg, Frank Schiller, Adrian Bonifacio, and Mary Donovan), be sure to say thank you.

For the scoop, write Friendsfnv@gmail.com.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Kit Cameron and Sally Smith with help from Richard May and Sandra Halladay.

Here is our bestie customer Olive as a puppy, now a healthy 14 years old!

NEW!

We now sell Open Farm dog food. Gently cooked then frozen, Open Farm is as good as homemade.

NOE VALLEY PET CO.

www.NoeValleyPet.com | 1451 Church Street | 415.282.7385
Follow us on Instagram: @noevalleypet

The Cost of Living in Noe

A 'Gateway' Home

By Corrie M. Anders

A penthouse within a multifamily building on Dolores Street that has attracted attention as an architectural icon sold in May for a record \$4,350,000.

The residence, loaded with glass and glitz, was one of a handful of condominium units closing escrow in May, according to data provided to the Noe Valley Voice by Corcoran Icon Properties. (Just five changed hands during the month, contrasted with 11 condos in May of last year.)

The real estate buzz, however, was over the shiny new structure towering over the intersection of Dolores and 24th streets. The bold contemporary building sits across the street from a stately but equally tall 1907 Edwardian.

Kira Mead, a Corcoran real estate



A majestic, sun-lit condominium atop this three-unit building at Dolores and 24th streets sold in May for \$4,350,000.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

agent who was involved in the sale, said the two buildings, when viewed together, created "a gateway to Noe Valley," where people passing by could experience both "the modern and the classic as they enter Noe Valley."

The new one, which the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects featured in its Architecture + the City house tour last fall, is hard to miss, either by cars on Dolores Street or pedestrians strolling up 24th Street.

Designed by Winder Gibson



The gabled roof of the most eye-catching building on Dolores Street is cut away on one side, offering panoramic views from its top deck. Photo courtesy Jake Dudley, Open Homes Photography

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range June 2023	Average June 2023	Average May 2023	Average June 2022
Studio	10	\$2,000 – \$2,595	\$2,306 / mo.	\$2,306 / mo.	\$2,148 / mo.
1-bdrm	33	\$1,725 – \$6,000	\$2,977 / mo.	\$2,977 / mo.	\$2,976 / mo.
2-bdrm	39	\$2,995 – \$6,600	\$4,120 / mo.	\$4,120 / mo.	\$3,153 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$3,750 – \$9,500	\$5,574 / mo.	\$5,574 / mo.	\$6,009 / mo.
4+-bdrm	11	\$5,999 – \$18,500	\$11,105 / mo.	\$11,105 / mo.	\$10,058 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 116 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from May 8 to June 8, 2023. In June 2022, there were 122 listings. NW7/2023

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						
May 2023	11	\$1,695,000	\$4,700,000	\$2,824,045	22	108%
April 2023	8	\$1,700,000	\$4,995,000	\$3,151,870	22	102%
May 2022	10	\$1,900,000	\$7,800,000	\$4,205,000	26	109%
Condominiums/TIC						
May 2023	5	\$707,000	\$4,350,000	\$2,250,600	46	98%
April 2023	7	\$1,115,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,795,714	40	106%
May 2022	11	\$850,000	\$2,750,000	\$1,529,091	19	114%
2- to 4-Unit buildings						
May 2023	3	\$1,650,000	\$2,550,000	\$2,208,333	77	96%
April 2023	1	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	12	107%
May 2022	7	\$1,550,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,160,714	31	110%
5+-unit buildings						
May 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2023	1	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	53	95%
May 2022	1	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	150	84%

*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. NVV 7/2023

Architects, it has a striking façade made up mostly of glass and geometric shapes of silver-gray wood or stucco. The building's gabled roof, which shades a wraparound back deck, is dramatically cut away on one side to afford panoramic views of the city.

One of three units in the building, the two-story penthouse home, with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths in 2,680 square feet of living space, was on the market for a month before a buyer offered 3.2 percent below its asking price of \$4,495,000.

According to Mead, the \$4.35 million final sale is likely the highest price ever paid for a condominium in Noe Valley. And a check of Voice real estate data agrees. (The previous record was held by a condo on 26th Street, which sold for \$4 million in March 2022.)

The new owner will be enjoying a luxury kitchen with stone countertops and a 22-foot center island as well as lofty living and dining under the cathedral ceiling formed by the roofline. They also will have a parking space for one vehicle.

Meanwhile, in the category of single-family detached homes, sales actually rose—buyers purchased 11 houses in May, one more than in May of last year.

"The number of sales is up from last month [April], which is nice," noted Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick. But "we were waiting for the spring market, and spring just never happened."

For the 11 houses, buyers forked over an average \$2.8 million. That number was far below the average price paid in May a year ago: \$4.2 million.

Still, there was at least one well-

heeled shopper.

A home in the 700 block of Elizabeth Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets, sold for \$4.7 million. That was 20.8 percent more than the seller's asking price (\$3,889,000).

The buyer picked up keys to a four-bedroom, 3.5-bath dwelling with 2,750 square feet of living space. The renovated property, which kept its 1890 Victorian façade, featured an open floor plan, 15-foot ceilings, a gourmet kitchen with Miele appliances and a large center island, glass-curtain walls, two terraces overlooking the back yard, and one-car parking. ■



Behind the façade of this Victorian cottage on Elizabeth Street is a high-tech home with four bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen, and two walkout terraces. It sold for \$4.7 million in May. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

PALM SPRINGS

Living in the Sun

Escape the fog and snarls of City life to Paradise on Earth. Experience the hot springs, golf courses and spas and make the bountiful desert your new home. Buy here where properties are 2 to 3 times less expensive than in the LA or SF Bay Area!

Contact Tom Campagna, your Real Estate expert for Palm Springs, Indian Wells, La Quinta and the surrounding area.

mrtomc@pacbell.net
415.328.5456 cell



Realtor Associate CalRE#00402828



B. BIRMINGHAM, INC.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

- Soft Story/ADU
- Custom Home Renovation
- Green Building
- Foundation Replacements
- New Garages



CA LICENSE #706747



415.806.2635

www.bbirminghaminc.com

OTHER VOICES

fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction • the noe valley voice

Four Poems

By Wendy Burch Steel

FALLEN IN THE FIELD

Is there a way to be more alive. Wing splits the air & the jay alarm begins, something dangerous down in the brush. I remember the nest soaring up into the source. The beak.

I have memorized the sound of your cry. The inside of your mouth, Your throat & the place from which sighs emerge.

In all the world of trees screeches opened our ears, one had fallen on the earth, tripped its way across the grasses, was sitting in the heat. To be touched would mean the end. Left in the field it would also die.

The way your eyes wander inside me, when lack becomes the symphony. Playing itself out in the fog. A thoughtless faith comes through everyone I pass. Mist falls on my head a benediction quickly & away.

IRIDESCENT, MADLY

Painted the walls, cut a finger, bled into a jar of Spellbound. Tried on the red dress, flat palms over hips. Altered who I look into the mirror. Turned into a forest of brown boots and aimless.

Lucid present underfoot, electric dust, flight patterns of invisible birds. Looked through lace curtains at the sky, fabric through the brain, sentient. The crackle coming at you in color. Not where but here. So is this pine branch, laugh of a dog, fur rippling under waves of recognition. Distract me & I die of distraction. Iridescence maddening the day. Always never again.

SILK IN THE WELL

As you lowered your feet into the well, I watched your face. You were not a ghost as before. I was not the wretched spirit on the stairway. You blossomed under the dark inverted steps, pushing upward. I could not help but look where you looked. I couldn't help but want you. Your prayer moved the ground and I was standing on it.

GOOD IS MUD

A pattern of falling, bruising her bones. *For the time when I inhabit a stone.* Will you be a tree. Curve of a back inhabited, forehead of a stranger. The familiar lip, pulling itself up into wayward curls. Nothing can comfort her hair.

But the continent in the throes of white. Capped cold, flood halted, bringing out the blankets. *On a day like today, I'll enter you.* Running from room to room putting out pans. Footpatter, a dream to a puddle in the woods. To see into, to lower a belly & to roll. *Good is mud.*

Plovers pulling down into a white capped wave somewhere. Waterlogged from the canopy down to the damp red. *How much like a tree.* Small wrens rush low through incited invisible. None of us are here. On this kind of day. Ask them. See how they soar inside you.



Golden Gate Park Cypress I

Illustration by Jack Tipple

Wendy Burch Steel received her master's degree in poetry and creative writing at San Francisco State University. She has been published nationally and internationally, and has collaborated with other musicians, composers, poets, and artists, using her original vocal work, poetry, and performance in many live readings and on KPFA Radio and local television. Her two books of poetry are *Iridescent, Madly* and *Traffic Prayers*. Steel is also a singer-songwriter and band leader in the Americana band Wendy Burch Steel & Redwood. She lives in the Oakland Hills.

What WE can do about the US Supreme Court right now.

- If States' Rights Prevail, WE need to Prevail in State Legislatures.
 - As Republicans Dilute Voting Rights, WE need to Control Redistricting Fights.

We have a chance to flip Virginia's legislature back to blue in Nov., the most nationally important election in 2023.

3 Ways to support Va. House of Delegate Danica Roem in SF

Fri 7/7, 7-9pm (WelcomeToMannys.com),

Sat 7/8, 11am-1pm (SFOasis.com)

Donate DanicaForStateSenate.com

Supported by Action-SF.com and CharlesSpiegelLaw.com



Member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents

- Individual
- Business Returns
- Electronic Filing
- Tax Planning
- Prior Year Returns
- Out-of-State Returns

Call for an appointment TODAY!

300 Vicksburg Street # 1, San Francisco • 415-821-3200

(on the corner of 24th near Church Street)

Did You Feel It?

Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

On Saturday, June 3, 2023, 5:01 a.m., the San Francisco Bay Area was shaken by a quake with a magnitude 4.5 centered on Healdsburg, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Did you think, *Oops, I was going to put together a quake kit. How long can I live on tortilla chips?*

Well, below is your monthly reminder: a list of items you might want to put in your quake preparedness kit, suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). To get more info or to find out about the department's trainings in disaster preparedness, call 415-970-2022 or visit sffdnerf@sfgov.org or www.sfgov.org/sfnert.



Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days. Choose canned or dried soups, juice, milk, etc.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove (outdoors only), utensils, matches.



Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio and batteries, rope, knife/scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench for utility shut-off.



Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, important documents, maps.

Hygiene: Hand sanitizer, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste.



Special items for children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, prescriptions, medications, and an extra pair of glasses.



Pet Supplies, such as food, water, leash, medications, and carrier.

Checklist for the 'Go Bag'

It never hurts to have a "go bag" at your workplace or in your car.

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Flashlight
- Extra pair of glasses
- Crank or battery radio
- Food and water
- Cash (\$100 in small bills)
- Basic first-aid, medications
- Change of clothes
- Toiletries
- Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- Copy of driver's license
- Contact info, paper, pencil, family or pet photos

UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Pups in Joby's Run, the Upper Noe dog play area, sport colors during Pride Weekend in San Francisco June 24-25. Photo courtesy Dave Emanuel

Dog Days of Summer

Come inside and get out of the fog. Summer hours at Upper Noe Rec Center now include Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and you can enjoy more pickleball and more hours in the gym.

Upper Noe is not hosting a summer camp this year. Many of our regular staffers are assisting camps at other locations. So be prepared to see some new faces helping you out at the park. Say "hello" and make them feel at home.

Many classes and activities are drop-in and free. Call the office at 415-970-8061 or visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com for more information.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center is the stewardship group. You are welcome to join. If you see something out of whack at the park, speak up. The most effective way to improve park conditions is to contact San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1), either by phone, web, or the easy-to-use phone app. Park personnel rely on your reports to support service requests. Help them keep our park healthy. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email info@fundogsf.org.

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Summer Session (June 6 to Aug. 12, 2023)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Mon: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sun. closed, outside activities only.
Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A Place to Play (free play)

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays
1 to 4 p.m. Saturday
Hours are subject to change.

Monday

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages)
FREE
2 to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym (all ages)

Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages)
FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. International Folk Dancing (Adult)
Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+) FREE

2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)

Thursday

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages)
FREE

Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)

2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)

4 to 5 p.m. Karate- Little Kickers (6-8 yrs)

5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kids (9-12 yrs)

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)

Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)

2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)

Saturday

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym



Trees are one of the most cost-effective climate solutions available to us.

In San Francisco, we have too few -- and they're not equitably distributed.

Join us in making a difference.



Greening San Francisco

www.fuf.net
415-268-0772

Taste the Love



Every Day
5:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
3966 24th Street

STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature highlighting new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce an Indian restaurant on 24th Street that is pleasing its neighborhood customers by delivering within a three-mile radius.

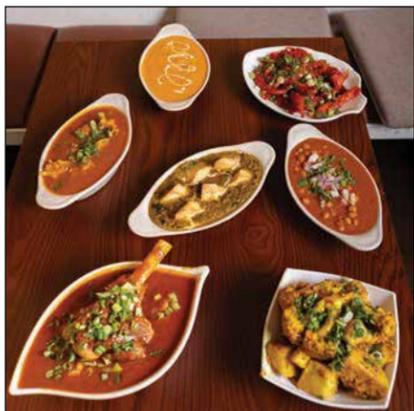
INDRENI INDIAN KITCHEN
4166 24th Street near Diamond Street
415-648-4416
<https://www.indrenikitchen.com/>

The bowl in the logo of the only Indian restaurant on 24th Street in Noe Valley could be mistaken for a pot of gold. It is depicted at the base of a mountain range under the arc of a rainbow.

But the image is intended to resemble a serving of one of Indreni Indian Kitchen's curry dishes or soups. The eatery's name is the Nepalese word for rainbow, and chef-owner Ram B. Poudel Chhetri picked it to represent San Francisco's beauty.

Last October, he took over the restaurant space at 4166 24th St. that had been home to Bon Appetikka Indian Restaurant, which opened in 2019. Prior to that it was the Indian restaurant Holy Kitchen, which had moved in after the closure of Swatdee Thai Restaurant in 2013.

While Chhetri has long worked in the hospitality industry, this is the first restaurant he has owned and operated. He serves halal red meats and uses dairy products from cows not treated with BST.



Indreni has a large selection of entrees, ranging from classic chicken and lamb curries and vindaloes to vegan tikka masalas and saag dishes, ranging in price from \$9.95 to \$18.95.

With app-based delivery services charging customers ever-increasing fees, Indreni Indian Kitchen offers free delivery within three miles of the restaurant if customers call it directly at 415-648-4416 and order at least \$25 worth of food.

"You don't have to order through the apps. We also have our own website where you can order. We do get good feedback," manager Bhuwon Oli told the *Voice* in describing how to avoid a delivery fee.

The restaurant's menu of contemporary Indian cuisine features a large selection of vegan and vegetarian options.

For appetizers there are vegetarian samosas (\$5.95 for an order of two) made with spiced potatoes and peas, or Gobi Manchurian (\$7.95), batter-fried



Chef-owner Ram B. Poudel Chhetri, flanked by chefs Navaraj K.C. (left) and chef-manager Bhuwon Oli (right), offers a brightly colored vegan dish at his Indreni Indian Kitchen, which opened last fall in Bon Appetikka's former spot on 24th Street.

Photos by Art Bodner

cauliflower cooked with green bell pepper and onion. Chhetri also makes vegetable momos (\$9.95), which are steamed dumplings stuffed with assorted vegetables and served with chutney.

The vegan entrée choices include Chana Masala (\$12.95) made with garbanzo beans cooked with onion and spices, or Tofu Chana saag (\$13.95), which is tofu and chickpeas dipped in a spinach puree and cooked with garlic, cumin, coriander and ginger.

Vegetarian options include Palak Paneer (\$13.95), cottage cheese dipped in a spinach puree and cooked with different spices, or the Veggie Tikka Masala (\$13.95) featuring mixed vegetables simmered in a creamy tomato sauce.

The Palak Paneer is a favorite with customers, said Oli. He also suggested two unique vegetarian dishes the restaurant makes, one being the Veg Navaratna Korma (\$13.95), a mixture of nine vegetables in a creamy curry cooked with fresh pineapple and cherries. The other is the Veg Japuri (\$12.95), made with assorted seasonal vegetables cooked in a curry sauce with herbs.

Other meatless options include a vegan Baigun Bharta (\$12.95), which is grilled eggplants cooked with onion, tomato and spices, or Indreni's vegan mushroom bhaji (\$13.95), peas and mushrooms cooked in a curry sauce.

The menu also features a number of chicken and lamb options, such as classic curries and vindaloo dishes. There is also the Kashmiri Chicken (\$13.95), a boneless grilled chicken sautéed with spinach puree and tikka sauce, or the Bombay Lamb Shank (\$18.95), which is cooked in the Tandoor oven, then simmered in a classic Indian sauce.

There are also a number of salmon dishes to order, prepared as a fish curry (\$15.95) with roasted cumin, fresh cilantro, and ginger, or as a fish vindaloo (\$16.95) with hot cherry sauce and potato chunks. Shrimp can also be ordered made in the vindaloo or tikka masala style, or with coconut and basil (\$18.95 per entree).

Various naans can also be ordered, from butter or plain versions of the Indian bread (\$2.95) to ones made with garlic cilantro or green chili (\$3.50). A sampler of three naans chosen by the chef is available (\$9) as is a vegan roti (\$2.50), a bread made with unbleached flour, and several paratha options

(\$3.95–\$4.50), whole wheat bread that can be ordered stuffed with potatoes and spicy peas or mint flavored.

Oli told the *Voice* that both the Chicken Tikka Masala and Butter Chicken dishes (\$15.95) were among the most popular meat dishes with diners.

The restaurant aims to be eco-friendly by using only recyclable and compostable containers and bags. Takeout orders can also be made via several delivery platforms such as Grubhub and Doordash.

The restaurant can seat 40 people in either the front or back dining rooms. Lunch is still mostly takeout or delivery, said Oli.

"Most people who come for in-person dining come for dinner," he said.

Indreni will also cater banquets, festivals, and office gatherings. It can also arrange to have onsite catering service for parties and special events.

The restaurant is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



OMNIVORE BOOKS JULY EVENTS

SUN
JULY
9

STEVEN SATTERFIELD • VEGETABLE REVELATIONS: INSPIRATION FOR PRODUCE-FORWARD COOKING • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Discover innovative, adaptable, and delicious ways to serve a wide range of vegetables with this inspired cookbook featuring over 150 recipes from a James Beard Award-winning chef and author of *Root to Leaf*. Bonus: Steven's bringing snacks!

WED
JULY
19

NILS BERNSTEIN IN CONVERSATION WITH STUART BRIOZA • THE JOY OF OYSTERS: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO SOURCING, SHUCKING, GRILLING, BROILING, AND FRYING • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Recipes, tips, stories, history, and everything else the oyster lover and the oyster curious could want to know. Learn how to pick 'em, store 'em, shuck 'em & serve 'em. And why we no longer avoid eating them in months without an r.

SAT
JULY
22

PAILIN CHONGCHITNANT • SABAI: 100 SIMPLE THAI RECIPES FOR ANY DAY OF THE WEEK • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Sabai: The state of being when you're at ease. Comfortable. Relaxed. 100 easy Thai recipes to help you cook sabai all week long from YouTube superstar and bestselling author of *Hot Thai Kitchen*. Whether you're familiar with Thai food or not, Pai will empower you to make it a part of your everyday routine.

WED
JULY
26

CLAIRE PTAK • LOVE IS A PINK CAKE: IRRESISTIBLE BAKES FOR MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT • 6:30 P.M. FREE! In her follow up to *The Violet Bakery Cookbook*, the Chez Panisse alum & NorCal native who now runs the wildly successful Violet Bakery in London (where she created the wedding cake for Harry and Meghan!) shares 75 sweet and savory creations reflective of her upbringing and love of in-season produce.

OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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

LOCAL Services

- Dog Walking
- Pet Sitting
- Behavior Help



25 year member of Pet Sitters Intl.
 Cass Morgan • 415.513.9299
 positivelypets1@earthlink.net
 www.sfpositivelypets.com

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Custom & Refaced Cabinets
 Replacing Dry Rot Deck Planks
 Carpentry and Painting
 Refinishing Hardwood Flooring
 Call Miguel (510) 333-0732

VSA Construction

General Contractor
 LIC # 990233
 No job too small
Old World Craftmanship
 (415) 877-1293



Seismic Retrofitting, Concrete Foundations, Board Form Concrete, Basement Additions, Concrete - Stairs, Retaining Walls, Patios, etc, Custom Home Remodeling, Reconstruction

McGowan Builders, Inc
 (415) 738-9412
 www.mcgowanbuilt.com
 Fully Licensed, CSLB#944258

Karizma

Jewelry & Watch Repair
 Feng Shui Reading

- Fine and Custom Jewelry Repair
 - Bead Stringing and Knotting.
 - Custom Jewelry Creation
 - Ring Sizing and Stone Cutting
 - Watch and Clock Repair & Engraving
- 4107 24th St. • SF • 415.861.4515
 karizma94114@gmail.com
 Tuesday - Saturday 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday by appointment • Monday Closed



re.do
 re.new

RE.CLAIMED RE.IMAGINED RE.DESIGNED

Custom reupholstery service in Noe Valley. If you have a special piece that needs some TLC (reupholstery, custom cushions, frame repairs, fabric, etc.) please contact me.

Email or call for a quote today!
 sue@redorenew.com | (415) 309-0531
 www.redorenew.com

NOE VALLEY

McDonnell & Weaver

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4091 24th Street
 NOE VALLEY
 (415) 641-0700

CHARLES SPIEGEL ATTORNEY

Mediation & Consensual Dispute Resolution Only

Email for Information on:

Pre & Post Marital Planning & Agreements
 Divorce Options Workshops

Thanks to the Noe Valley Community
 for Donating \$250,000+
 for our Action-SF.com Victory Funds

CharlesSpiegelLaw.com • CharlesSpiegelLaw@gmail.com
 1102 Sanchez St. • SF, CA 94114 • 415.644.4555

Rick Collins

Macintosh Help

29 Years Experience

Troubleshooting/Tutoring



Tune-Ups/Upgrades
 SFMacMan.com
 (415) 821-1792



July 1: The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets 10 am to 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 1-8: CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts "Figuratively Speaking: Art in Advertising, Writing in Art," work by Douglas Sheran. 3245 16th. Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm, or by appointment: 642-1000; creativityexplored.org

July 1-22: CHUNG 24 Gallery shows "Remnants," a solo exhibition of photographic montage and mixed media by Liz Steketee. Wed.-Sat., 1:30-6 pm, or by appointment. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

July 1-29: NOE WALKS meanders around the neighborhood on Saturdays, starting at 10 am. Meet at 24th and Sanchez.

July 1-31: Kings Gallery at the First Unitarian Church exhibits "PAINTINGS Inspired by Landscape," by Hank Sultan and Jenny Badger Sultan. 1187 Franklin. 776-4580; hanksultan@gmail.com

July 1-31: GALLERY SANCHEZ at the Noe Valley Ministry exhibits "Nature & Nurture: Landscape and Cultural Parody" by multimedia artist Ken Sakatani. Check gallery hours, ken@sakataniarts.com. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

July 2: A guided walking tour, "Stairways of Noe Valley," features nearby staircases and their history. 2-3:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 2: ACTION SF hosts monthly meetings, open to all, at 4 pm. For link or location, email actionSFteam@gmail.com

July 2, 16 & 30: Folk offers free YOGA CLASSES; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 4: The SF MIME TROUPE performs the musical *Breakdown* in Dolores Park. Music 1:30 pm, show 2 pm. 285-1717; sfmt.org

July 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library hosts a Family STORYTIME on

Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am; space is limited. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 7: The RANDALL MUSEUM offers "Birding on the Hill," a two-hour walk around Corona Heights. 8 am. 199 Museum. 554-9600; randallmuseum.org

July 7: The self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in neighborhood businesses. 5-9 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

July 8: The Museum of the African Diaspora offers a FREE ADMISSION. 11 am-6 pm. 685 Mission. moadsf.org

July 8: Learn about the cultural meaning and history of HULA at a dance performance by Halau Ha'a Kea o Kinchi; reservations required. 2-2:45 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 8: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts a DANCE PARTY for all generations and musical tastes. 7-8:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 8 & 29: The Dewayne Oakley BLUES Ensemble performs from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

July 9: Bird & Beckett hosts a BENEFIT, "Poets Play Music," with performances by Warm Spell and Ouroboros. 2-4 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

July 9, 19 & 22: Omnivore Books on Food hosts CHEFS and culinary artists Steven Satterfield (*Vegetable Revelations: Inspiration for Produce-Forward Cooking*) July 9, 3 pm; Nils Bernstein (*The Joy of Oysters*) in conversation with Stuart Brizoa, July 19, 6:30 pm; and Pailin Chongchitnant (*Sabhai: 100 Simple Thai Recipes*) July 22, 3 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

July 9 & 23: Yoga Flow offers a free YOGA CLASS; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 9 & 25: ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS at the Noe Valley Town Square feature El Guajiro

on July 9 and Sunset Hill on July 25. 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 9 & 23; Aug. 6 & 13: The STERN GROVE Festival features Lyle Lovett on July 9, the SF Symphony on July 23, Buddy Guy on Aug. 6, and Patti Smith on Aug. 13. 2 pm. 19th Ave. at Sloat. 252-6252; sterngrove.org

July 10: Get Drop-In TECH Help from the library staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 13: Poet Laureate Kim Shuck's POEM JAM features the Pan Dulce Poets. 6-7:15 pm. The Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

July 13: The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on the second Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

July 14: Find music, food, shopping at the free Bhangra & Beats NIGHT MARKET in Downtown S.F. 5-10 pm. 235 Montgomery.

July 14: The MATINEE at the Noe Valley Library is *Clash By Night*, a 1952 film noir. 2-3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 15: Rhythm & Motion gives a free DANCE workout 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 17: ODD MONDAYS offers readings by Cara Black and Mary Jo McConahay. 7-8 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. facebook.com/OddMondays

July 19: The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 19: Kung Pao KOSHER COMEDY laughs about its third anniversary with Shazia Mirza, Will Durst, Cathy Ladman, Arline Geduldig, and Lisa Geduldig. On Zoom, 7 pm. koshercomedy.com

July 20: "Cheers to Art" features ArtSpan artists creating LIVE ART, from 6 to 8 pm. Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. info@artspan; https://bit.ly/cheers-rt

July 20-Aug. 6: The 43rd SF JEWISH FILM Festival screens at the Castro (July 20-23 & 30), Vogue (July 25-29), and the Piedmont Theater in Oakland (Aug. 1-6). jfi.org/sfjff-2023

July 21: SUNDOWN CINEMA screens *Moana* at Crane Cove Park. 8 pm-ish. 18th and Illinois. dothebay.com/sundowncinema

July 22: The WORLD LITERATURE Book Club's selection is *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 23: A TEA CEREMONY and tasting is presented by the Dasen American Academy. 2:30-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 23-Aug. 6: Artist PAUL LANIER exhibits "Selected Works" at Carter and Company. Reception July 23, 3-5 pm. 1231 Main St., St. Helena. 707-963-5878; lanier.carbonmade.com

July 25: John Freeman discusses "How Dry I Am: Prohibition in the City," at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. Sherith Israel, 2266 California. sanfranciscohistory.org

July 29: Children and their families are invited to "BUBBLEOLOGY," fun with bubbles on the patio. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 30: Ages 10 to 18 can make their own BUBBLE TEA (Boba). 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 30: The last Saturday of each month, drummer Vince Lateano leads the Lateano JAM SESSION at Bird & Beckett. 5-7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

Aug. 20: Submission deadline for the Noe Valley GIRLS Film Festival. See nvgff.com.

Remember September

The next *Noe Valley Voice* calendar will be in the **September 2023** issue, distributed the first week of September. The deadline is **Aug. 15**. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
 Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
 Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-1:30 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
 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
 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 by email.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com

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



© 2020 Corcoran Group LLC. All rights reserved. Corcoran® and the Corcoran Logo are registered service marks owned by Corcoran Group LLC. Corcoran Group LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated.

be sneaky
 be splashy
 be dad
 be home.

corcoran

ICON PROPERTIES

FIND YOUR HOME AT CORCORANICON.COM

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Pipes, The Pipes Are Calling

By Mazook

DIG WE MUST: The big news in Downtown Noe Valley in early June was that Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) was planning to start work soon on 24th Street, between Castro and Noe, to replace the old natural gas pipes below the street. While they modernize the pipelines and upgrade the gas meters, the 4000 block will be reduced to one lane, PG&E representatives said.

Residents and businesses on 24th Street should anticipate construction noise during the project.

"We expect work to start on July 10 and continue [through] August 11," advised PG&E spokesperson Denny Boyles. "We expect most work to take place at night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Lighting may also be necessary to perform the work. We understand this work can be inconvenient," he said, but "we will work to minimize inconveniences for our customers related to these activities."

Boyles said merchants, workers, and residents should expect to see crews, vehicles, and equipment as well as temporary markings on the ground to identify the location of underground utilities in the area. He pointed out that weather and other factors affecting safety might change their schedule.

Boyles added, "We will post 'No Parking' signs at least 72 hours before we begin our work. Crews will route traffic around work areas if needed. Driveway access may be affected, but we can provide access upon request. Please plan for minor delays if we are working outside your home or business."

He warned, "There will be controlled and safe release of a small amount of natural gas. You may hear a loud and steady noise and notice the smell of gas. This is normal while crews are working, but we encourage anyone with concerns to call us at 1-800-743-5000."

After their work has been completed, the crews will perform temporary restoration of the street, and then return to perform final paving, landscaping, and other restorative work.

It ain't going to be over until it's over, which should be sometime in September.

Uh-oh, right at press time, Adam Thongsavat from Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's office checked in to say, "We heard from PG&E that the new project timeline may get pushed to July 24 or July 31."

☎ ☎ ☎

PARKLETGATE: Meetings were held at the Valley Tavern on June 1 and 10, to inform the businesses who would be most affected by the project. Primarily, that's the Valley Tavern, Vive la Tarte, Pancake Boy, and Novy Restaurant, since each will have to temporarily remove the parklets they've constructed in front of their eateries.

To answer questions, in attendance were 16 PG&E people, Alex Murillo from the Department of Public Works, Thongsavat from Mandelman's office, Marianne Mazzucco Thompson from the Mayor's Office of Economic & Workforce Development, as well as a representative from the San Francisco Planning Commission.

The number one question from those

with parklets was: "Will we be compensated for the cost of removing and replacing the parklets?" The answer was a simple "no."

"This is going to cost us a lot of money," said Vince Hogan of the Tavern, "both to remove it and then rebuild it again, not to mention loss of business during the time they are doing this job."

Every commercial business in that block will be affected, since access to the storefronts will become much more difficult, foot traffic will diminish, and parking will become even more problematic for you drivers. Oh, and how are the driverless cars going to fare under those conditions?

Time will tell. I will update you in my next column in September (I am on holiday for the August issue of the Voice).

☎ ☎ ☎

ON THE FOOD FRONT, in that same block, in the spot once occupied by Village Rotisserie at 4063 24th St., the folks at Tacolicious are busy remodeling so they can open a torta shop, according to co-owner Sara Deseran (who lived in Upper Noe Valley but now resides in Bernal Heights with Tacolicious founder Joe Hargrave), "by the end of the year."

A torta is, in Mexican cuisine, a sandwich made with a crusty bread roll, served hot or cold. "We will have, in addition to the torta, a variety of chimichanga dishes, a lot of salads, and much more," says Deseran, "and we are working on putting together our menu."

There will be a kids menu, and beer and wine for the adults. She says the shop will be open seven days a week but they are still deciding on the hours of operation. Tacolicious will, however, serve a special weekend brunch. Patrons will order at the counter, get a table, and then pick their food up; customers will be encouraged to take out their orders.

Right now, Deseran says she's been designing the interior of the eatery as well as the "fantastic" outside patio in the back of the restaurant. "It will be very colorful and cheerful and not at all dull," she says, "and very family friendly."

By the way, Deseran has published four cookbooks, including Tacolicious, and has written for Sunset, Faveur, and Bon Appétit magazines. She says one of her favorite stores in the neighborhood is Omnivore Books on Food.

There is also a brand new restaurant which opened its doors on June 15 on the corner of Church and 25th called Bistro Ember, featuring Turkish cuisine.

Owner/Chef Deniz Sezer was born and raised in a small town north of Istanbul

and has modernized the menu with his mom's recipes for foods he "grew up on since I was a kid." He says, "We are a farmer family and cooked our meals on a wood fire, giving the food a special taste." He prepares the meals now on a charcoal grill.

Sezer says that the most popular items on the menu are, for a starter, Fish & Raki, which is cured hamachi sashimi with compressed melon gel, peach caviar, watermelon radish, melon vinegar, and raki (an alcoholic drink made from twice-distilled grapes); for an entrée, the Lamb Mutancana, which is a slow-cooked lamb shoulder, with maitake mushroom, dry apricot anise puree, and dry sour plum puree; and for dessert, Burnt Chicken Pudding, crispy-honey chicken skin with hazelnut cream, goat milk ice cream, and cinnamon crumble. "We make our own ice cream."

Sezer adds, "We also serve our house-made chickpea bread made with cultured butter, spicy honey, rosemary oil, and extra virgin olive oil."

Bistro Ember, 1298 Church, is open Tuesday to Sunday from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Why this spot? "I really love walking in Noe Valley, and I learned the space was for rent on my walk down 24th Street and then down Church Street after having dinner at Mesopotamia on 24th Street." That's at 3915 24th St.

☎ ☎ ☎

FARMERS MARKET JUICE: Kou Her (yes, one "r") from the Herr Family Farm, located in Sanger in Fresno County, reports, "This is the best crop we have grown in a very long time because of all the rain we had, and I expect a great summer crop this year."

He goes on: "By mid-July we will have fantastic seedless red and yellow watermelons, great white sweet corn, great red, yellow, and green bell peppers, and the Early Girl and Sungold tomatoes are turning out to be the best we have had in years."

I also learned from Her that the seedless watermelons are the females and those with seeds are the males. Her says, "We plant them in rows with the male plants growing beside two females, with the bees cross-pollinating the melons, and by spacing out the plants in the rows."

Also, I see the lines are long at the Noe Valley Farmers Market for strawberries from Tomatero Farm, located in Watsonville. Most Saturdays they are selling out of their supply, and happy customers are walking off with boxes of

berries. And yes, they are sweet and delicious, and most shoppers are buying the three-basket box.

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: The word is that First Republic Bank (which has been taken over by JP Morgan Chase) will close its Noe Valley, Irving, and Howard Street branches by the end of 2023. Scheduled to close later are the branches in West Portal, the Laurel Village shopping center, the Presidio, and in the financial district on Pine Street. No word yet on the fate of our friendly associates at the neighborhood branch at 1354 Castro St. None had been laid off in mid-June...

James Lick Middle School has created a turf soccer field in the playground nearest to Castro Street...No word yet on the Haystack building being sold...

Memento, the new restaurant at 1305 Castro, says they will open their doors the last week in June and will feature California cuisine, but owners would not confirm the date when I tried to reach them at my deadline... Given the current moratorium on cannabis stores, it looks like the one which had applied for a permit in Noe Valley (24th and Vicksburg) will not open for a while, if at all.

☎ ☎ ☎

A BASKET CASE: I am sad to report that thievery in Noe Valley has literally reached new heights.

Voice editor Sally Smith sent me this dispatch:

Just after midnight, in the wee hours of June 19, an unidentified man with a large overstuffed backpack in tow used an aluminum ladder to climb up and remove six hanging flower baskets from the Noe Valley Town Square and the area around 24th and Church streets.

According to Debra Niemann of the Noe Valley Association (our community benefit district), the porters who set up the town square daily discovered the planters—with flowers intact—in a clump on the pavement at 6:45 a.m. Monday morning.

"Maybe the man who wanted to take them was scared off while waiting for someone to come pick him and the planters up," said Niemann. "Who steals flower baskets? Who carries around a ladder after midnight?" she said with obvious befuddlement. "It's bizarre."

Niemann said she had received a clear image of the person from a security camera near Sterling Bank but was seeking more videos from cameras at surrounding businesses.

The next day, the town square crew had rehanging the baskets, she said. "They're all back up. And we put special devices on them so no one can take them down."

Well... Four days later, the thieves returned and took a single flower basket from a pole in front of Small Frys children's store. There is video of the thief and his ladder from several cameras on the street, and the SFPD is on the case.

And then there was this post on Nextdoor from Melanie Mandich: "Plant thief, Liberty Street/Sanchez Street medians. To all homeowners, gardeners on Liberty Hill. Someone has been stealing mature plants from the Liberty Street/Sanchez Street medians. Last week, Euphorbias and Hellebores were gutted. Today, I discovered that a mature Swans Neck Agave was literally ripped out at its base. SF City does not maintain these medians: folks living along Liberty/Sanchez Streets invest their own time and \$\$ to create a welcoming space, open to all. Plant theft is heartbreaking! And it's a crime!"

Amen.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT ALL, YOU ALL. Have a great July and August. Be safe and be well.



Our Project This Summer: Mayor London Breed and Mark Nagel of RescueSF were braving cool temperatures at a June 28 forum on downtown revitalization put on by the Noe Valley Democratic Club in the Noe Valley Town Square. Still, they and the other five panelists had no shortage of ideas for saving the city, chief among them being to make a visit downtown and have fun while doing it.

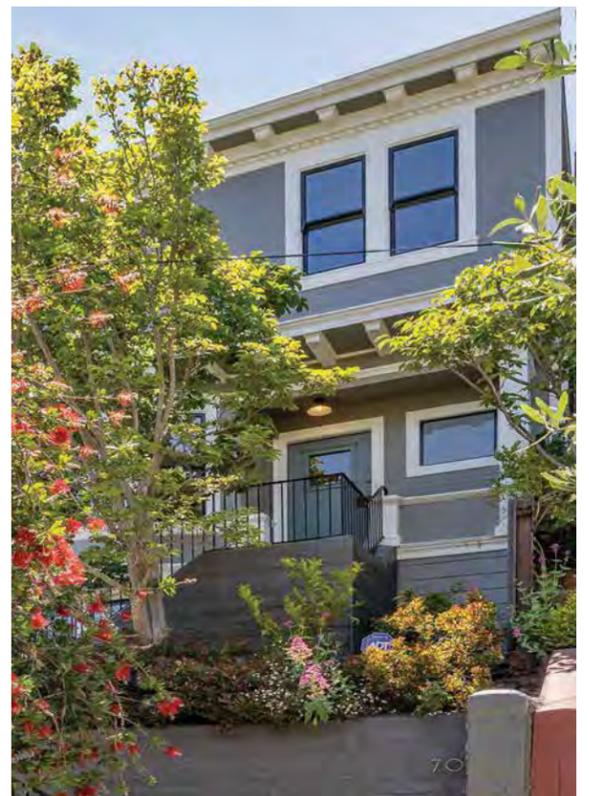
Photo by Art Bodner



Just in from Italy.

Basil Racuk • 3980 24th Street • 415.852.8550

Elevating your real estate experience.
Proven expertise with remarkable results.



Lamisse Droubi

DRE#01257759

415.531.2134

lamisse@droubitem.com
DroubiTeam.com

Lamisse Droubi and her team have a known reputation for prepping homes to reach their maximum value. With a keen eye for design, a dedicated team, and a customized strategy, they can transform your home and attract the right buyer for the highest price. After 7 days of marketing, 70 Vicksburg Street received **6 offers** and **sold \$680k+ over asking at \$1,676 per square foot.**

Call Lamisse at (415) 531-2134 to discuss your real estate needs.