

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Noe Filmmaker Has *Secret Song* In SF Doc Fest

Director's Debut Inspired by Music Teacher

By Matthew S. Bajko

Both of Samantha Campbell's children attended the private San Francisco School in the city's Portola District. It is how the Hoffman Avenue resident came to know the school's longtime music teacher Doug Goodkin. When she learned that Goodkin planned to retire in 2020 after 45 years at the school, Campbell decided tracking Goodkin's last year of teaching would make a compelling subject for her first documentary. Goodkin agreed to be filmed, as did his music instructor colleagues James Harding and Sofia Lopez-Ibor. They all follow the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education, which combines lessons on music, movement, speech, math, and drama in



All in the Mix: Making a documentary often presents challenges, like a pandemic shutdown, say. Still, Noe Valley director Samantha Campbell was able to keep the music playing in *The Secret Song*, her film about popular teacher Doug Goodkin (center). Photo courtesy Lansia Wann

a manner similar to how children play. "It is a really amazing amount of organization and technique that the children have to engage in. I thought

everyone should see this because it seemed so transformational for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Somewhere Over The Rainbow in Noe Valley

There Are June Pride Events, Including a 'Sistory' Tour

By Kit Cameron

Noe Valley, on the quieter side of Castro hill, nevertheless has a robust set of events for June Pride Month. To start, you are not going to want to miss the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence when they share their "Sistory" Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m., at Bethany Methodist Church. The self-proclaimed "order of queer and trans nuns" has used humor and wit to fight against bigotry, complacency, and guilt for over 40 years. From their response to the AIDS crisis to the more recent dust-up with a major league baseball team, the Sisters have been out in front of just about every major political or social change in San Francisco since their founding in 1979.

Sister Morticia Mourningwood, who also is a member of Bethany, says, "We are nuns to those who know not who to worship. We minister to those who might have had church walls used against them. And we stand on the shoulders of countless Sisters before us who gave their lives so that we may keep this platform."

Pride Month continues at the church for the next three Wednesday evenings. On June 14, the documentary *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria* will give us the story of trans women and drag queens who fought back against the police at the Tenderloin cafeteria in 1966. The 2005 film, directed by Victor Silverman and Susan Stryker, points out that the uprising occurred three years before the more famous Stonewall Inn battle in New York.

June 21 brings a second sobering documentary: *Call Her Ganda*, about the 2005 murder of a Filipina trans woman named Jennifer Laude and the subsequent trial of Joseph Pemberton,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

A Touching Way Of Talking to Animals

That's What Anne Snowball Hopes to Share With Humans

By Kit Cameron

On a hill high up in Noe Valley, with a terrace filled with the flicker and buzz of hummingbirds, sits the home of a miracle worker. Anne Snowball, body healer, therapist, and "elephant whisperer," is saying hello to her recently deceased cat. "A day after Tango passed, a gray squirrel made its way up to my deck. They never come here. I knew it was him." As she spoke, a frisky gray squirrel crossed in front of her open sliding door. "Well, there he is, come to check up on me. Hi, Tango!" For three decades, Snowball has been



Noe's Elephant Whisperer Anne Snowball communes with animals of all kinds, including the hummingbirds and squirrels near her home on Grand View Terrace. Photo by Kit Cameron

interpreting the language and special needs of animals. When not traveling to Asia and Africa to offer her therapeutic

touch to elephants, she has been sharing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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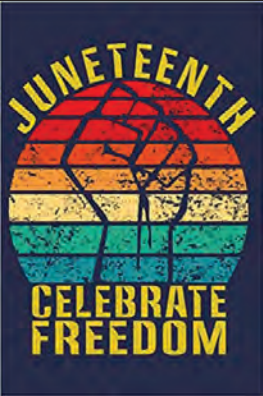


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P.O. Box 460249
San Francisco, CA 94146
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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 July 2023 Issue: June 20, 2023
Editorial Deadline: June 15, 2023

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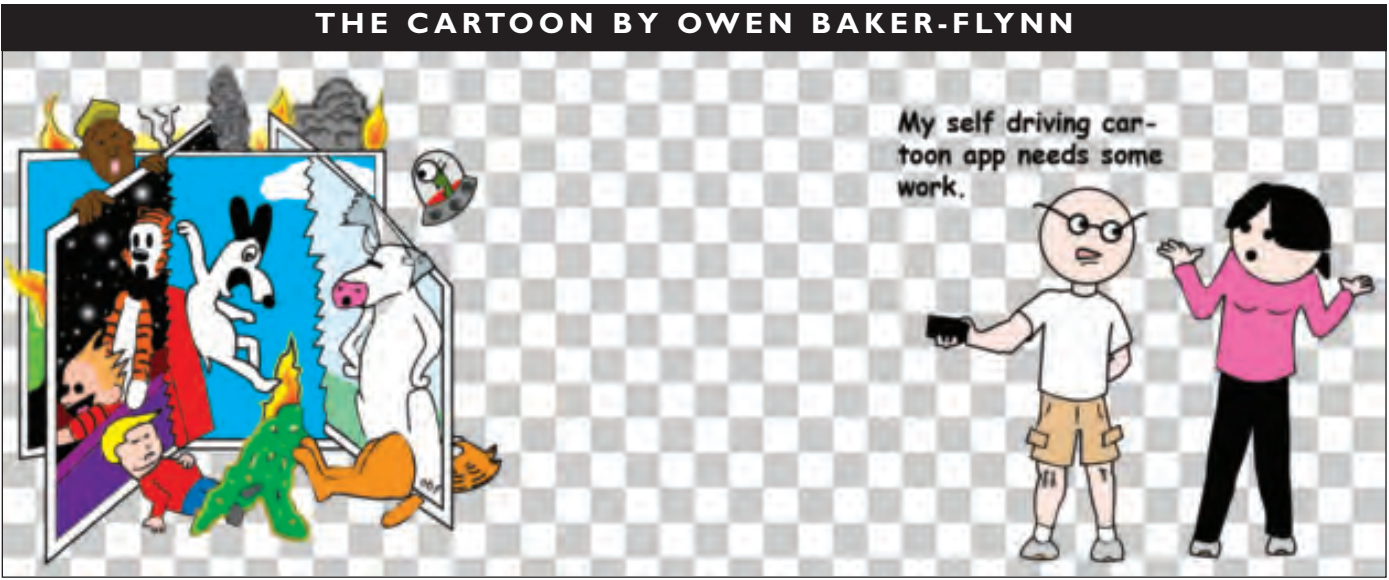
PRODUCTION
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DISTRIBUTION
Jack Tipple

WEB GURU
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ADVERTISING SALES
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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
by Fricke-Parks Press
Contents © 2023 The Noe Valley Voice



April—Not the Cruellest Month

According to the San Francisco Police Department’s digital map of incident reports, there were 55 incidents reported in Noe Valley in April, making the month a relatively quiet one. (There were 78 incidents in April of last year.)

As usual, the largest number (15) were in the larceny/theft category, covering things like package thefts or thefts from cars. Still, 15 was the lowest count in that category in two years.

Burglary was a close second, with 13 incidents reported, including eight home break-ins. Police classified nine other incidents as “malicious mischief.”

The data also showed eight cars and one truck were stolen in Noe Valley. (An attempted auto theft was foiled.)

Happily, there were no street robberies, though the data showed two assaults and one report of family domestic violence.

To file a police report—it’s never too late—go to a nearby station or visit

CRIME SNAPSHOT										
Noe Valley Incident Reports July 2022 – April 2023										
Incident Type	Jul22	Aug22	Sep22	Oct22	Nov22	Dec22	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23
Larceny/Theft	37	43	28	41	41	26	32	17	21	15
Burglary	18	20	16	25	10	17	11	10	13	13
Malicious Mischief	0	5	10	7	7	6	3	4	9	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	13	16	13	25	10	15	10	14	10
Assault	0	3	5	7	3	1	7	3	8	2
Robbery	3	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	3	0
Other Misc.	5	4	5	10	6	1	5	5	6	5
Fraud	5	1	0	0	4	6	3	3	1	0
Family D.Violence	8	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1
Vandalism	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0
Totals	90	93	83	107	98	70	79	55	76	55

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](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783). This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting 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 April 2023 data on May 19, 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.

www.SanFranciscoPolice.org (look for the Get Service menu). You can also call 3-1-1 or 415-701-2311.

To contact Mission Station (Attn: Captain Thomas Harvey), email SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org. For

Ingleside Station, email Acting Captain Kevin Knoble or Captain Derrick Lew at SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org.

The *Voice* culled the data for this issue from [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org) on May 19, 2023.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

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LETTERS 63¢

Stop, You’re Making Us Flush

Editor:

Thank you for such an excellent article in the May 2023 *Voice* (“Prefab Bathroom May Reach Town Square by Fall,” by Matthew S. Bajko). [I liked it] not just because you included my scatological punnery but because, Matthew, you wrote such a nuanced and smartly written piece about Noe Valley’s “Toiletgate.”

Leslie Crawford, Events Coordinator
Noe Valley Town Square

Close Encounter of the Coyote Kind

Editor:

I have lived at Clipper and Sanchez for 35 years. My very first coyote sighting was a couple of nights ago [in early May] around 11 p.m., when I was taking my dog out for her last break before bed.

In the bright lights at the Clipper and Sanchez intersection was what I initially thought was a large-ish shepherd. When I recognized it for a wild canid and then for a coyote, my dog barked at it and I loudly yelled. It then moved on towards 24th Street, where the restaurants could still have been open. Was it looking for refuse in their trash bins?

Chris Mende
Sanchez Street

Scaling New Peaks

Editor:

One year ago this month (May 2022), the *Voice* helped announce the launch of my business, First Peak (www.firstpeak.co)! After a full lap around the sun, I’m excited to again share my thanks, as well as some updates:

First Peak makes adventure clothes for babies and toddlers, all designed and manufactured in the Bay Area from eco-friendly, odor-resistant fabrics. Since we

last communicated, we’ve expanded our line to include all-season layers like sweatshirts and flannels (the latter are made of upcycled oyster shells and discarded water bottles—how cool is that?), and we’ve started making products in sizes ranging from 3 months to 4T.

This company was born out of my experience raising my baby in Noe Valley. This neighborhood is part of our DNA, and I’m so grateful to keep growing with your support. Here’s to many more peaks to come!

Jocelyn Newman
Diamond Street

Missing the Rotisserie

Editor:

Do you have the scoop on why Village Rotisserie closed (in April after almost two years at 4063 24th St.)?

It’s really sad to see another neighborhood business shutter. It was a welcome addition to our culinary offerings.

Tita Bell
22nd Street

Editor’s Note: In response to our own query, Village Rotisserie co-owner Priscilla Dosiou wrote the Voice: “There were multiple reasons—personal and business—that prompted the decision to close. We were incredibly sad to do so. We loved being a part of the community in such a meaningful way. We feel better knowing that the new tenants will surely deliver something fantastic to the neighborhood, which we’re excited to see.” We learned in April the new lessee would be Tacolicious and that if all went well, the restaurant would open this fall.

editor@noevalleyvoice.com

O P I N I O N • O P I N I O N

Grief and Gratitude

A Noe Valley Therapist’s Perspective

By Deborah Cooper

One of the great lessons of the pandemic has been learning how to hold grief and gratitude in both hands, giving both equal weight and attendance. The losses have been many, great and small. There is grief for the million and counting who have died from the virus in the U.S. We lost the ability to be at deathbeds, wakes, memorials, weddings, birthdays, and a multitude of gatherings that are important to the human spirit. There were the losses of favorite businesses, of careers, and schooling interrupted. The losses continue. We know in our bones now that all plans are tentative.

There has also been gratitude. Gratitude for simply being alive, for our loved ones who have survived, for vaccines, for Paxlovid. In Noe Valley, there is gratitude that beloved restaurants and businesses like Novy and When Modern Was are still thriving.

For many of us, there is gratitude for Zoom and other forms of what has become known as “telehealth.”

I am a psychotherapist who has had an office on 24th Street for 30 years. My office is in a suite of offices not unlike many others that flourished in Noe Valley before the pandemic. Usually on second floors, we have practiced in renovated residential buildings that got converted decades ago into commercial spaces. We’ve practiced our trade above the cafes, bagel shops, and retail stores along 24th Street and up and down Church Street. Our clients bring in cups of coffee from Martha’s or Bernie’s and shopping bags from Just for Fun or Xela. Our clients’ presence in Noe Valley was part and parcel of the neighborhood and significant to the economy.

For over a year, all of that stopped. My grief over not being able to be in my office was tempered with gratitude for the rapid shift to telehealth. It led to a

paradox: I was losing the intimacy of being with clients in person yet I was getting to know their kids and pets when they interrupted our sessions. Also, the intimacy of the therapy room was being replaced by the intimacy of going through this strange experience together.

How much to self-disclose as a therapist is always a question, but Covid has loosened the boundaries of the therapeutic relationship. So have the effects of climate change. During the summer of 2020, there were months of worry about fires in the Bay Area. I remember vividly a day in September when smoke darkened the sun. As I worked with clients on resilience and adaptability, I was also working on myself. Many people go to therapy to deal with grief. In these times, therapists and clients are grieving similar losses and processing the same difficult material.

When leases were up in 2020, many therapists gave up their offices. Others were able to negotiate lower rents for the time their offices were deserted. The five of us in my suite were among the latter. We came back in June of 2021 hopeful that with vaccinations life and our practices would go back to what they were before. Then came the Delta variant, and video counseling did not go away. It grew stronger. Since then, even more therapists have given up their offices and retreated to their homes. Others see clients in person just

a few days a week. This new regimen has changed not only the practice of psychotherapy but Noe Valley itself. Some of what used to be therapist suites are being converted back to residential units. Some remain empty.

We are about to sign a new lease with our landlord. We hope this will be a wise decision, renting office space we may barely use. Before Covid, an office in our suite would be rented almost immediately. In this new era, it’s hard to find those who want to share or sublet, much less rent an office for themselves.

I have tremendous gratitude that I did not lose my livelihood. I was able to be there for my clients, often having sessions with them while they were in cars or even closets. I have gratitude that for so many of my clients telehealth makes therapy more convenient and less stressful to prioritize. I have gratitude that two days a week I don’t rush to the office, and between breaks on telehealth I can putter in my garden or do laundry.

My grief? Running into fewer and fewer colleagues on 24th Street, hearing of yet another office that no longer exists, missing an office suite that used to be busy.

When the Twin Towers came down, there were hugs and tears in the kitchen in between clients. The hugs with colleagues got me through the hours of helping clients process a national trauma. As the Covid shutdown approached,

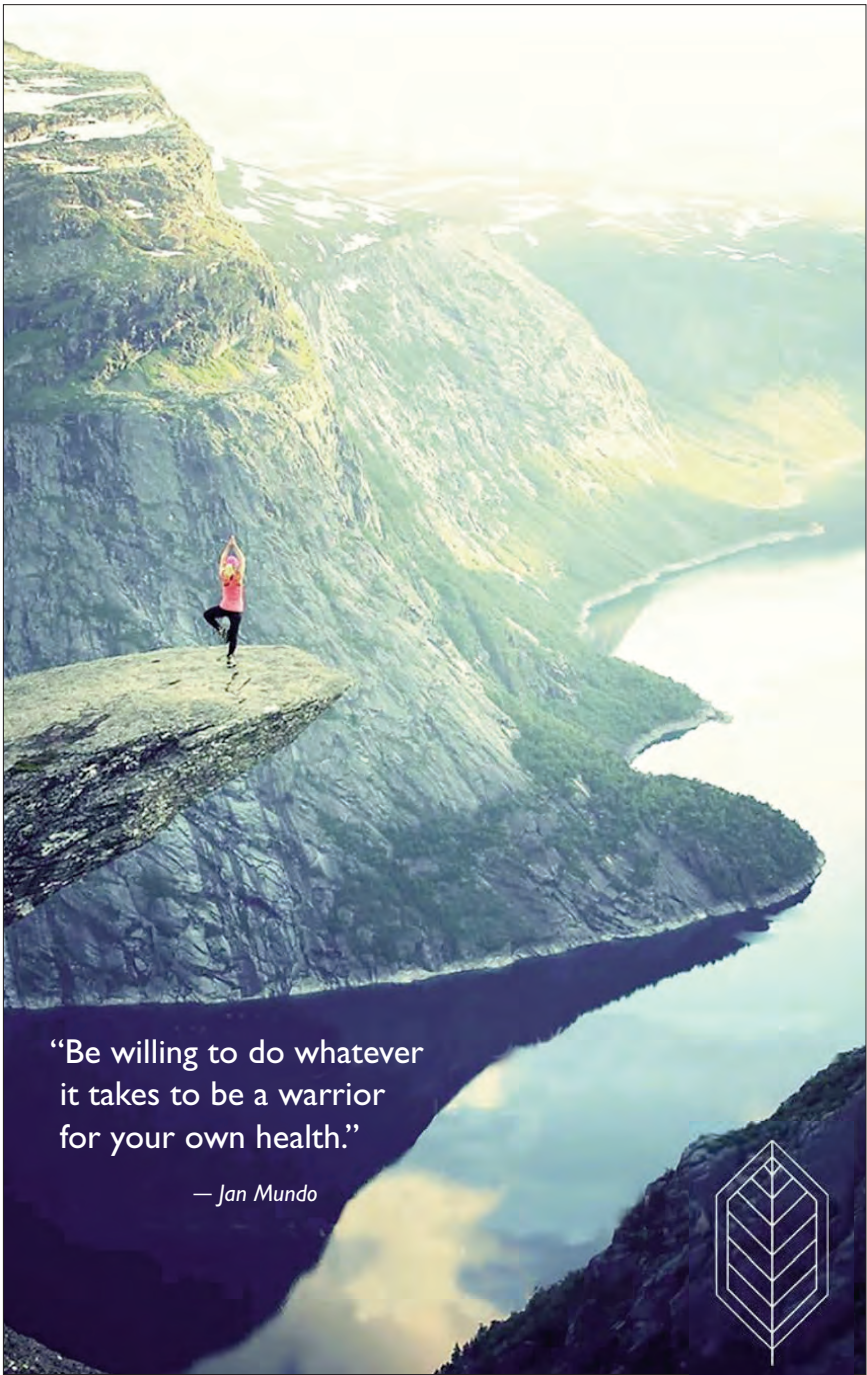
we were afraid to hug, but the connection and support remained palpable.

There is something important to mind, body, and spirit about being in the presence of others. Coming into the office for the first time since the shutdown, clients burst into tears as they sat down on the couch. I cried too. Is therapy more effective in person? I’ve had powerful sessions via telehealth, and this continues. Still, there’s something nuanced and fulfilling about being together in person. My decision to keep my office is a mental health and quality-of-life decision, not a financial one.

People need people. Neighborhoods do as well. An important part of processing grief is to acknowledge the loss. Although I am keeping my office, my practice is changed forever. There are clients I may never be in the same room with again, never noticing a foot tapping or changes in breathing. Something is lost not being in the presence of a whole body. In a time of a true mental health crisis, we need all the tools we can get.

I both grieve my old practice and am grateful for this new hybrid. Grief and gratitude, they go hand in hand. I am grateful for the ease of teletherapy and I grieve for what it and Covid have done to Noe Valley and my profession. Holding both, I go forward.

Deborah Cooper, MFT, is a psychotherapist who has practiced in Noe Valley for three decades. After living in Noe 10 years she now lives in the Mission. She was co-director of the first Bay Area program for adult survivors of sexual abuse at the Women’s Institute for Mental Health in the 1980s. In 2012, as co-president of Gaylesta, she helped win passage of California bill SB1172, the first law against conversion therapy for minors in the nation. Her website is Deborahcoopermft.com.



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Say Woof to the Pet Wall

Finally, an Instagram for Cats and Dogs



Building owner Vince Alioto cuddles Lola, who with her pet mom Veronica Gonzalez stopped by the garage gallery in May for a quick peek at the competition. Photos by Art Bodner



Vinnie's Paw Pals exhibit at 442 Elizabeth is rapidly expanding to a second wall. Soon, we might need to contact MOMA for space.

The garage of an eight-unit apartment building at 442 Elizabeth St. is showing portraits of many of the furry friends that call Noe Valley home.

The photo exhibit was started by Vince Alioto, who owns the building but actually lives in the Portola District near McClaren Park. Vince's dad Frank bought the building in 1972, but passed away in 1982. His mom died a few years later in 1985. Vince and his two brothers Joseph and Albert took over the apartments, and Vince has been taking care of the property ever since.

Vince is at the building five days a week, usually in the mornings. He is a friendly, outgoing guy, and anyone passing by who starts up a conversation will soon feel they're part of his extended family. It was at the beginning of the pandemic that Vince noticed a bunch more folks taking their dogs for walks in the neighborhood. Being a dog person himself, he would make friends with all the critters coming by, and at

some point he asked if the owner would mind if he took a photo. The rest is history, as they say, and now Vinnie's Paw Pals on Elizabeth is a veritable folk art museum.

Vince will gladly admit that his wife of 42 years, Mariaelena, is the backbone of the operation, as it is she who prints the photos, many of which are emailed from pet owners' phones.

The hours are not set, but the garage gallery is open most mornings during the week, and the collection is growing. Recently, Vince began adding photos to a second wall. He says he would like to carry on the tradition as long as he can.

If you would like your canine (or feline) friend added to the wall of Noe Valley pet celebrities, be sure to stop by and say hello. Once your pet's image is on the board, you will be asked to sign the photo on your pet's behalf. A hats off to Vinnie, his wife Mariaelena, and all of our good-looking dogs and cats.

—Art Bodner

vivre

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

Kind Words from a Noe Valley Home Seller!

Danielle sold our condo in Noe Valley. She is a complete professional, and I have absolutely no reservations about recommending her for any real estate transaction. Our condo was located in a very desirable neighborhood and, in my view, it would not have taken much marketing to fetch a price that would have satisfied us. Other realtors may have taken this as an opportunity to go easy on the marketing. Not Danielle.

Overall, her marketing efforts went above and beyond what we could have expected. Our home sold for far more than what we expected, and I attribute this to Danielle's marketing.

She and her team are also incredibly organized. This helped in many respects, but especially with staging, painting, documents, reviewing offers and finalizing the transaction. Following execution, we received a full copy of all documents. Danielle and her team were always available to answer questions, and they always did so in an informative and timely manner.

On top of all of this, Danielle is a great person and, as you would expect, the people on her team are also very nice. I recommend Danielle for any real estate transaction in San Francisco. She is exceptional, and would be an asset to to anyone buying or selling real estate.

Zak M.



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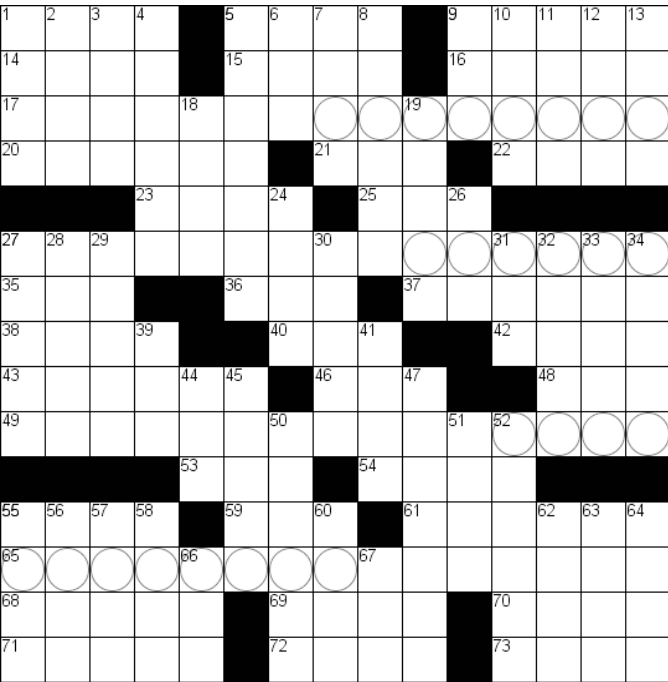
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Musical Squares

ACROSS

1. Bills at bars
5. Skier Lindsey who dated Tiger Woods
9. Excel graph
14. Last name of all three Giants outfielders in 1963
15. Length x width, for a rectangle
16. Jonas Salk's conquest
17. Oscar role for Jodie Foster
20. Chartres chanteur, in a tree
21. Half a dozen
22. SFO postings
23. Cocksure
25. By way of
27. Ballplayer with a home stadium in Maryland
35. In ____: gobs-macked
36. Country next to Nor.
37. "90% of baseball is half ____": Yogi Berra
38. Fire; terminate
40. Sgt. or cpl.
42. Gambler's "marker"
43. Newton and Stern
46. Talk Like a Pirate Day exclamation
48. Brian of ambient music
49. Architect of St. Paul's, London
53. "Mazel ____!" ("Congratulations!")
54. Confederate general Robert ____
55. Berry touted as a superfood
59. Zodiac sign
61. One ____ (everybody)
65. Voice-lesson place on 24th (and the inspiration for this puzzle)



68. *Star Wars* android ____ Detoo
69. Low-cal, in adspeak
70. Comical Bombeck
71. Basil-and-pine-nuts sauce
72. "Pro" votes
73. Money you owe

DOWN

1. Folded order at Casa Mexicana
2. "That's ____ need to know"
3. "Constrictor" snakes
4. Most certain
5. Uses the Hoover
6. Iron ____ (steelmaker need)
7. Loch ____ Monster
8. ____ Son: Carl Nolte column in the *Chron*
9. EMT specialty
10. One of 18 at Harding Park

11. Touched down
12. Watermelon discard
13. Clothing, informally
18. "____ Said" (Neil Diamond hit song)
19. Assumption, in math
24. Wedding wear
26. "Blessed ____ the meek..."
27. Without frills
28. Overflowing (in)
29. Renault compact of old
30. Summary
31. Subs ____ at Castro and 24th
32. "A rose by any ____ name..."
33. Frankie who sang "Blazing Saddles"
34. "Candle in the Wind" singer ____ John
39. Chiang ____ -shek
41. "Either that guy's lucky ____ cheats"

44. Chicago winter clock setting: Abbr.
45. Popular vodka, popularly
47. Makes a connection
50. Too too
51. Contact lens care brand
52. Joined in marriage
55. Pronto
56. Apple discard
57. Aardvark snacks
58. Gershwin's "____ Rhythm"
60. Dog in *Garfield*
62. Suffix with million or billion
63. With "Bausch &," maker of 51-Down
64. Exam for attys.-to-be
66. Cry of disapproval
67. Embarcadero or Powell, for BART

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

The Secret Song and Other Film Stories

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children,” Campbell told the *Voice* during a phone interview in May.

Campbell enlisted as her co-producers Rachel Benson and Todd Dayton, who both had documentary filmmaking experience. They also were parents of children enrolled at the San Francisco School and knew of Goodkin.

“He is a very well-known educator around the world and has written nine books. He teaches adult workshops to other teachers. He is an insatiable learner, a lifelong learner, and just a guy who has a lot to be recognized for,” said Campbell, whose daughter is now in high school while her son a fifth-grader at a different school. “He did feel it would be a wonderful feather in the cap of a long career. It wasn’t a problem convincing him.”

Due to their connections to the school community, they were able to gain fly-on-the-wall access to the campus. The crew was granted permission to bring their cameras into the classrooms and film all but a handful of the school’s 250 preschool-through-eighth-grade students.

Filming began that fall and the crew traveled to Salt Lake City to film the teachers and students performing at an

annual Orff Schulwerk conference. Preparations were well under way for filming Goodkin’s final months and school ceremonies during the spring semester when the Covid pandemic upended those plans and shuttered the campus in March of 2020.

“Here he is the master of ceremonies and is going to retire without any ceremonies. At the time, I was so disappointed for him and sad at the irony of his sort of disruption. He had a good attitude about it; I admired him for that,” said Campbell, who has lived in Noe Valley since 2015.

A Full-Length Feature

The health crisis added another dimension to the story Campbell was trying to capture on celluloid, in addition to creating logistical challenges for the first-time filmmaker. With her subjects quarantining at home, she resorted to using recordings of the teachers’ virtual classes and enlisted the help of several parents to film their children.

“I was doing this film at the time and thinking about the themes I cared about—art education and music education and how those things are valuable to kids and communities—and suddenly we are in a situation where nobody is in person. I think everybody started to examine what does community mean and what do I derive from it in terms of happiness,” said Campbell, who earned a bachelor of fine arts from Syracuse



In her debut film, Samantha Campbell uses archival photos such as this one, showing Doug Goodkin playing banjo for students in his early years as a teacher. Photos courtesy Lansia Wann

University and is president of the Campbell Foundation, focused on protecting natural resources.

Campbell turned the hours of film she and her crew captured, including one-on-one interviews with the music instructors, their pupils, and their school colleagues, into a 90-minute film, *The Secret Song*. The title comes from a term Goodkin used to refer to the hidden song waiting for his students to find in the wood xylophones he would give them.

As he explains in the film, in order to ferret out the song, each student must “explore with their hands, listen with their ears, and remember with their minds.”

Dorsey & Brinker Also in Spotlight

The film is part of this year’s San Francisco Documentary Festival taking place at the Roxie Theater in the Mission over the first 11 days of June. It is one of several selections with ties to Noe Valley.

The subject of director Lindsay Gauthier’s 10-minute short *Sean Dorsey Dance: Dreaming Trans and Queer Futures* is a resident of the neighborhood. Dorsey, who was traveling out of state on tour and unavailable for an interview, is a trailblazing transgender choreographer and activist. He produces the Fresh Meat Festival, now in its 21st season, that showcases trans and queer performance.

Another subject of a short film who had called Noe Valley home is Ruth Brinker, who in the mid-1980s began delivering meals to San Franciscans living with AIDS and unable to cook for themselves. It led Brinker to found the nonprofit Project Open Hand, which to this day provides food to those in need in the city.

Director Apo W. Bazidi’s 23-minute

film *The Ruth Brinker Story* shines a light on Brinker, who died in 2011 at the age of 89. A native of South Dakota, Brinker had moved to San Francisco in the mid-1950s and had a career in food services.

A World of Music

Campbell told the *Voice* she expected a sell-out crowd for the June 2 screening of her film at the Roxie. (It can also be viewed via the festival online through June 11.)

It won the Marion Herrman Excellence in Filmmaking Award at this year’s Sedona International Film Festival in Arizona. In September, Campbell will be in Spain for the film’s screening at the Madrid International Film Festival. “Sophia [Lopez-Ibor] is from Madrid, so that will be fun,” said Campbell.

Around that time, she also hopes to have a limited theatrical run for the film in the Bay Area at various independent movie houses.

Campbell is also mapping out her next film, which will again focus on music but from a global perspective and feature people from different cultures.

Later this summer she will travel with the trio of San Francisco School teachers to Ghana, where they will teach a music workshop. While there, she plans to film the brothers who co-founded the Nunya Music Academy and capture the school’s inauguration ceremony.

“I am very fascinated by the idea of music as a language, as an international language,” said Campbell.

A full lineup for the 2023 documentary film festival, taking place at the Roxie Theater and online, can be found at SFdocfest2023.eventive.org/welcome.



Samantha Campbell says *The Secret Song* is about the value of music and art education, not only for students but for the entire community.



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Animal Therapist Anne Snowball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her skills here in the city, advising pet owners, veterinarians, and rescue volunteers through her “hands-on” service CallingAllAnimals.org.

“My hands are my life and my connection with the knowledge and the spirit of the animals,” she proclaims.

Snowball’s early ability to heal animals, both wild and domestic, was nurtured during her teen years in Pittsburgh, Pa. “I was frequently the person summoned for help when imperiled wildlife needed rescue.”

While attending Lake Erie College, she found her bliss in riding and caring for horses. A student year abroad in 1967 took her to Spain. She loved the country so much she made her way back after graduating and spent another two years. She even found a way to ride horses there, at a U.S. Air Force base near Madrid.

By Snowball’s reckoning, her lifepath took a bit of a detour when she returned to the states in 1970. “I got married to an actor, moved to L.A. for his career, and lost track of animals.” They divorced in 1975 and she thought long and hard about her future. “I decided to change my life, wrote down what I wanted to do, and ended up working for an airline,” which afforded unlimited world travel. Her Spanish fluency guaranteed her a plum position with Braniff Airlines and she continued in the industry, finally retiring from Delta in 2006.

It was on a 1989 safari to Tanzania that she found herself drawn to the largest of mammals. “I was so speechless with the grandeur and beauty of the landscape and the animals on its surface,” she said. “I felt the ancient age of the Earth like nowhere else in the world.”

Landing in San Francisco six years later, she began studying a type of massage called TTTouch, developed by equine trainer Linda Tellington-Jones to reduce animals’ stress and tension. Snowball also became adept at craniosacral therapy, a manual therapy promoted by physician John E. Upledger. It aims to relieve pain and anxiety by increasing blood flow in the brain and spinal cord.

TTTouch involves concentrated yet gentle touching, says Snowball. Specifically it is “gentle little movements, a circle and a quarter. Start at 6 o’clock, move [your curled fingers] around to 6 again, and then 9 o’clock. Then move to a new place. You want small, less invasive movement.”

After being certified in the practice in the mid-’90s, Snowball became increasingly active in the field, doing consultations for both human and animal clients.

‘Animals Listen’

A successful practitioner must learn to focus intently on the bodies they are healing, says Snowball. “Animals listen. They feel it immediately, because they are that attuned.”

A huge part of her success, she believes, is in relieving animals of their fear. “I have an innate ability to read the animals and then get a sense of them,” she says. “Usually [when I first touch them], they tell me how old they are.”

Following her first visit to Africa, Snowball started volunteering with the Wildlife Conservation Network (wildnet.org). That association proved to be key to her eventual meet-up with elephants in Southeast Asia.

“I was standing next to Iain Douglas-Hamilton [a behavioral scientist and philanthropist focused on elephant rescue in Africa] at a WCN fundraiser in 2010. A woman came up and said to him, ‘Why are you not doing something for Asian elephants?’”

The woman was Windy Borman, a filmmaker who was making a documentary on the work of the Friends of the Asian Elephant Hospital (FAE). The film, *The Eyes of Thailand* (2012), centers on the life-saving treatment of Asian elephants injured by landmines on the border between Thailand and Myanmar.

Snowball convinced Borman to take her and a team of other TTTouch practitioners on her next filmmaking excursion to the hospital. On her first trip to Lampang, Snowball met FAE founder Soraida Salwala, chief guardian and protector of the elephants. “I had to convince Soraida I could help elephants with my technique,” Snowball says.

Snowball was immediately introduced to a 7-year-old female elephant named Boon Mee, who had been admitted just two weeks before after she had



Anne Snowball touches the shoulders of an elephant caretaker at a hospital in Thailand to demonstrate the gentle motions of her touch therapy. Photo by Sandy Rakowitz

lost most of her right-foot padding in a mine blast.

“At first I thought she could have been a statue, so stoically she stood. One could barely see her breathe,” Snowball recalls. “This is why we are here,” Snowball thought to herself. “Can we show her that life is worth living?”

A Mind-Body Experience

The next morning, with her work partner Patty, Snowball went to Boon Mee’s space. “It looked like she hadn’t moved since the previous day,” says Snowball. The two humans took a deep breath, and then “the two of us placed our hands on the forehead of this elephant.”

Snowball began the circling motions from her TTTouch training, and at first felt nothing. Then, suddenly, “there was a pull of energy from her, energy pulling me all of a sudden. I was pushed back. My hands went up over my head. Boon Mee looked at me and raised her trunk.”

Snowball says, “This was the moment I had hoped for...the release when her life force ignited like a forest fire coursing through her body and awakening every cell in its wake.”

Snowball and her colleagues met with the hospital’s veterinarians and mahouts (elephant caretakers) and taught them their gentle therapy. The mahouts, who at first resisted, were drawn to the practice when they saw

the positive effect on their animals, and were even willing to put aside their cultural aversion to being touched by a stranger to feel the technique on their own bodies, Snowball says.

In exchange, the mahouts taught Snowball their own animal care methods. “They taught me how to make the elephants feel safe. They showed me all the different hand signals to communicate with elephants,” says Snowball.

Plans to Stay in Touch

Since that visit, Snowball has returned to FAE again and again, “spending a lot of time doing craniosacral work, a lot of soft work.” She says Boon Mee’s wound has slowly healed and the elephant is enjoying her new life as a greeter at the hospital.

After the three-year Covid-induced break, Snowball is back to offering house calls for those in Noe Valley and elsewhere seeking new ways to improve their pets’ emotional and physical health.

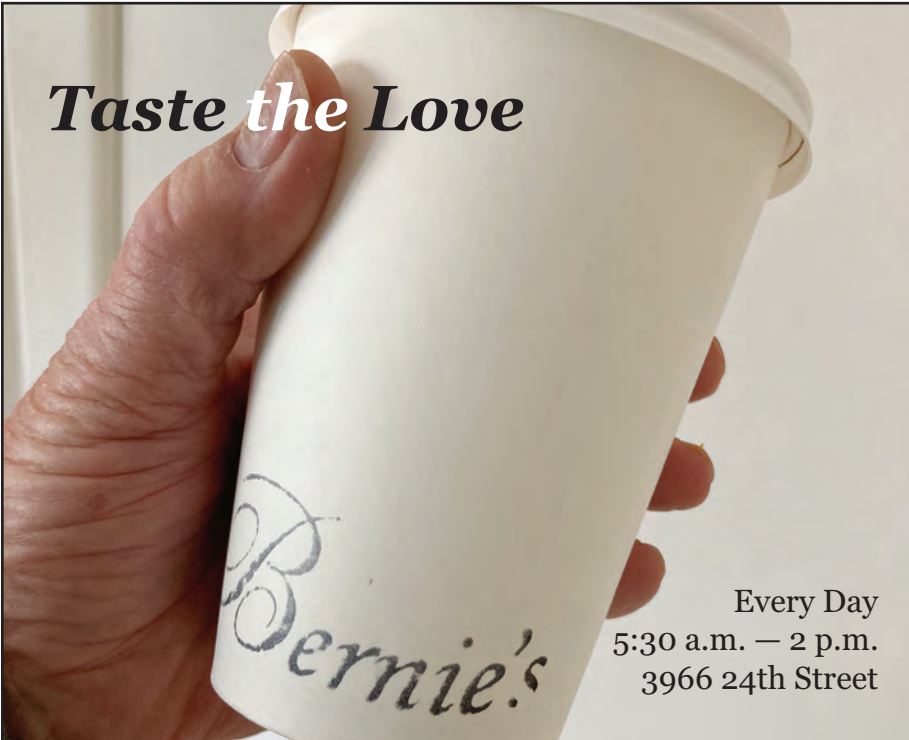
She also is returning to Africa in June to work with a charity called Rhino 911. Then in November, she will travel again to Thailand.

She is not concerned that Boon Mee will have forgotten her. “Elephants’ minds are so developed they remember people,” she says. “Animals remember experiences on a cellular level. But the elephant Boon Mee remembers me. When she sees me, she starts chirping and sending her trunk out to me.” ■



Anne Snowball’s home is adorned with mementos from her trips to Asia and Africa. But none is more precious than her memories of helping to heal injured elephants. Photo by Kit Cameron

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Events Celebrating Pride and ‘Sistory’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

charged with the crime. The 2018 film, directed by P J Raval, conveys the outrage of people in the Philippines at the brutality of the assault and the concern that the alleged killer, a U.S. Marine on leave, would get off scot-free.

The series culminates with a light-hearted celebration of the world of trans and drag. Sister Mourningwood invites us to the Fourth Annual Drag Show at Bethany on Wednesday, June 28. Mourningwood says she has stretched her queenly presence to the four corners of the Bay Area to find participants. Audience response is key to the fun of the event. Be sure to bring some folding money for that all-important interaction with performers. In addition, Folio Books will be selling LGBTIQA lit before and after the show.

All events are free, with donations accepted, and all start at 7 p.m., at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St. (at the corner of Clipper). Come early if you plan on looking for parking in the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, just up the street at the Noe Valley Ministry, baritone Elliot Franks, along with pianist Daniel Lockert, will give us the premiere of a new song cycle: Decomposition | Little Histories | Renewal, written by trans composer Grey Rose Grant.

Franks began his career as a woman singing soprano and mezzo-soprano

parts, with regular appearances in the San Francisco Opera Chorus and the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, where her voice was described as “magnificent” by music director Bruce Lamott.

When Franks began his gender transition, he had a “long and hard decision” to make, he said in an interview with KQED, published in 2019. As testosterone therapy lowered his voice, so did it change his type of singing role. These days, Franks is comfortable as a “rich and emotional baritone.”

The one-hour free concert begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, in the upstairs concert hall at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Big Weekend June 24 & 25

There are a lot more happenings over the hill. For one thing, the 31st San Francisco Dyke March will kick off at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at Dolores and 18th streets (for information, see www.thedykemarch.org).

Also, if you haven’t already discovered the Pride Weekend website at sfpride.org, go there to find out the skinny on other events Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25. Our only-in-San-Francisco annual parade heads out from Beale Street at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, with the theme “Looking Back and Moving Forward.”

One way to be part of the the walk to City Hall along Market Street is to join the contingent of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. Find out how to “Slay with Rafael at Pride” at bit.ly/rafael-pride. If you have questions, contact legislative aide Adam Thongsavat at adam.thongsavat@sfgov.org. ■



This year’s Drag Show at Bethany Church, on Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m., may see a return of some of last year’s fabulous stars (left to right): Beef Cakes, Mama Ganuush, Skinny de France, Sister Morticia Mourningwood, Lemon Skweezy, Nia Polatin, Sexen City, Amy Bathhouse, and Xtina Agitera.

Photo courtesy Sadie Stone

City Ethics Board Sanctions Local Real Estate Broker

By Corrie M. Anders

The San Francisco Ethics Commission has sanctioned Victor Makras, a Noe Valley real estate broker and one-time prominent player in City Hall politics, for conflict of interest.

It was the latest legal trouble for Makras, who in December was sentenced to three years’ probation and fined \$15,200 for a federal bank fraud conviction involving a mortgage loan transaction.

At its May 5 meeting, the oversight body accepted Makras’ stipulation that he made two “serious” conflict-of-interest violations while serving as a member of the San Francisco Port Commission from May 2018 to July 2020.

Makras, 65, who operates Makras Real Estate, a brokerage and property management firm at 1193 Church St., was also assessed a \$14,500 fine.

Over the years, he has served on numerous other boards and commissions, including the city’s Board of Permit Appeals, the Police Commission, the Retirement Board, and the Public Utilities Commission.

Makras acknowledged in the stipulation that he had failed to recuse himself from Port Commission actions involving a proposed 28-acre residential and commercial development known as Mission Rock. At the time, Makras owned five condominium units at 188 King St., a short distance from the Mission Rock project.

“It was reasonably foreseeable that the project would have a material financial effect on respondent’s [Makras’] financial interest, and thus a conflict of interest existed,” the commission wrote in its official document, signed by both parties.

The ethics board also wrote Makras

“failed to disclose” repayment to him of a \$70,000 loan he had made in December 2013 to two other city officials. The loan had gone to Harlan Kelly, then the general manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and wife Naomi Kelly, then San Francisco city administrator.

The commission said that as a member of the city’s Retirement Board, Makras should have declared the loan repayment in October 2014 as “reportable income.”

Makras’ separate bank fraud conviction was part of a larger federal investigation in San Francisco targeting more than a dozen public officials and businesspeople.

According to federal prosecutors, Makras helped the Kellys obtain a \$1.3 million mortgage refinance loan. A federal jury convicted Makras of one count each of bank fraud and making false statements to a bank.

More than 100 people, including former Mayor Willie Brown, sent letters to the court asking for leniency in Makras’ case. In the trial, prosecutors had sought a two-month prison sentence and a \$25,000 fine.

Meanwhile, another city official implicated in the years-long federal investigation, former San Francisco Department of Public Works director Mohammed Nuru, pled guilty to bribery and kickback charges and was sentenced last August to seven years in prison. Harlan Kelly is set to go on trial in U.S District Court June 26. Naomi Kelly, who resigned her position, has not been charged in the case.

At press time, Makras had not responded to a Voice request for comment. ■

Queer Authors at Pride Monday

The Odd Mondays event series celebrates San Francisco Pride Month with readings Monday, June 5, by three outstanding queer authors. Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Miah Jeffra, and Ajuan Mance will present excerpts from their latest books from 7 to 8 p.m. at Bethany Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St. Admission is free.

Bledsoe, who has won numerous awards including two National Science Foundation fellowships and the American Library Association Stonewall Award, will read from her young adult novel *Tell the Rest* (Akashic Books, 2023), which revolves around two childhood friends who meet years after escaping from a church-sponsored “conversion therapy” camp.

Jeffra’s new novel is *American Gospel* (Black Lawrence Press, 2023). It focuses on three people—“a desperate mother, a bitter son, a doubtful priest” (Jim Grimsely)—struggling to lead their lives while their neighborhood is being razed for a Baltimore redevelopment project. A co-founder of the award-winning queer/trans Foglifter Press, Jeffra teaches writing and decolonial studies at Santa Clara University and Sonoma State University.

Mance is a professor in African-American literature at Mills College, a graphic novelist and artist, and a producer of zines. She will present and discuss her latest graphic work, *Living While Black* (Chronicle Books, 2023), which celebrates the small acts of resistance that comprise the daily lives of Black folks in 40 illustrations, each accompanied by text about people who were killed doing the same thing.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at the reading. Copies are also available at Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

—Richard May

City Reschedules Quake Shack Hearing

By Matthew S. Bajko

A hearing that will determine the fate of a historic earthquake shack structure in Noe Valley is now scheduled to take place this summer. Debate over the redevelopment of the property at 369 Valley St. has been ongoing for nearly 10 years.

The small cottage is currently composed of two shacks that once housed refugees from the 1906 earthquake. Property owner John Schrader, of Nova Designs + Builds, is seeking permission to build a new house at the site that would incorporate the existing building into its design.

But the L-shaped shack structure would need to be moved closer to the street and raised above ground in order to construct the two-story, single-family home with four bedrooms and three bathrooms that Schrader has proposed. Neighbors and historic preservationists, however, have argued against relocating the historic structure.

Just a handful of the 5,610 earthquake shacks remain standing, with two found in Noe Valley, according to city planners. In 2015, the San Francisco Planning Department concluded that the Valley Street shacks were of historical value and eligible for listing on a

statewide register of historic properties in California. It meant Schrader couldn’t demolish them as he initially had planned after a historical resource consultant he had hired concluded they had lost their historical significance due to changes made over the years. He brought forth a new proposal two years later and has been further refining it in response to objections raised by both neighbors and city planners.

The city’s zoning administrator had been set to vote on Schrader’s request for a planning code variance in March, but the hearing was postponed several times. As of late May, it had been rescheduled for June 28.

Fabien Lannoye, the principal designer for the project with Schrader’s firm, told the *Voice* that the delay was partly due to the planning department’s having asked Shrader to retain the services of a historical architect or engineer to assist on the project.

“We are in the process of getting proposals and will hopefully soon be able to move forward,” said Lannoye.

Once the variance is granted, no additional public hearings will be needed for the project. But if anyone requests a discretionary review, then the city’s planning commission and zoning administrator will need to hold a joint hearing to reconsider the project, which the developer hopes to avoid.

“We would love to find a solution that everyone can support and move on with this project,” said Lannoye. ■



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- John and Angela B.



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COMPASS

SHORT TAKES

A Meeting With History

Ever wondered who the “Day” in Day Street is? Or where the movie theater that became a church once stood? Join knowledgeable historians as they present “The History of Upper Noe,” at the regular meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors on Wednesday, June 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

In addition to a history lesson, you will get a chance to weigh in on some significant traffic changes being proposed by the SFMTA as well as some new civic improvements already funded by the city for Church Street. There may even be an update on the proposed improvements to Slow Sanchez Street.

There are always refreshments, and anyone is welcome to attend at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. You can learn more from the UNN website, UpperNoeNeighbors.com.

And UNN hopes to soon bring Saturday morning live music back to the rec center playground, starting twice a month in June and continuing to October. Volunteers are needed; if you are a music lover maybe that is you!

Info@uppernoeneighbors.com is the place to start.

Dine and Read at Mamahuhu

For some delicious Chinese food and lively dinner conversation join Folio Books in partnership with Mamahuhu at the second Chinese-American Lit Club gathering at the restaurant, 3991 24th St. The event takes place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, and, yes, you can order dinner to eat while you talk.

Participants will be discussing *Disorientation*, the debut novel of California author Elaine Hsieh Chou (Penguin, 2022). A crackling satire based on a real-life incident in which a white writer gave himself a Chinese pen name in order to get published, the book asks the eternal question: Who gets to tell our stories?

The book club arose out of Folio’s owners’ enthusiasm for Mamahuhu’s events at their other locations. According to Folio staffer Isaiah Scandrette, “As soon as [the restaurant] moved into the neighborhood, they reached out. Mamahuhu supplies the venue and Folio is running the event.” So we can expect more opportunities to dine and discourse.

Folio has copies of the book for sale; the first 14 people to email meghan@eatmamahuhu.com will get a free copy. Mamahuhu’s address is 3991



Henry Sultan’s *Stonehenge* (above) and Jenny Badger Sultan’s *Mythic Rock* (right) will be among the paintings exhibited at a retrospective of the couple’s work June 10 through July 31 at First Unitarian on Franklin Street.

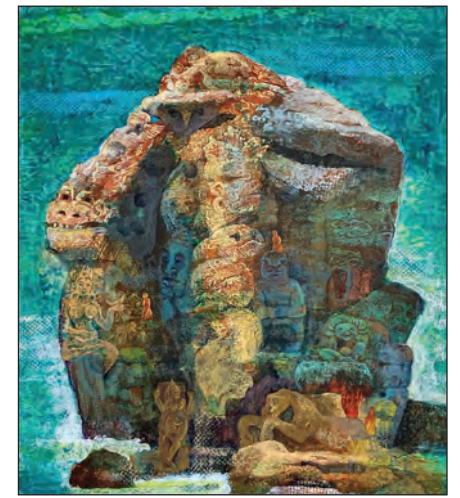
24th St. For more information, contact organizer Katerina Argyres at orders@foliosf.com.

Landscapes by the Sultans

Noe Valley artists Henry Sultan and Jenny Badger Sultan shared a mutual love of travel and landscapes, which they recorded in their painting over a period of 53 years together, until Jenny Sultan’s death in October 2021. Now a retrospective show of their work at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco will share their passions with the public.

The exhibit, titled “Paintings Inspired by the Landscape,” will include work from all phases of their careers. For Jenny Sultan the landscape was a vehicle for her imagination and a record of her dreams. Henry Sultan, who is known for his mandala paintings, says, “Most of my landscapes came from my mind,” too.

“A lot of our landscapes are from the imagination. Some are from photos which we would then use as inspiration,” adds Sultan. “We would go on vacation to other countries. Jenny would paint in watercolor en plein air,



and I started working with watercolors en plein air as well.”

The couple moved to the corner of 30th and Sanchez streets in 1986. Passersby can see evidence of Jenny Sultan’s talent in the paintings along the side of the building and in the windows of their studio. A blue bottle tree pokes above the fence, and a “sun crack” painted on Sanchez Street records the annual solstice sliver of sun spilling onto the sidewalk between their building and their neighbor’s.

Henry Sultan’s mural *Landscapes of the Mind* has graced the side of Alice’s Restaurant at 29th and Sanchez since the building was a natural food store. The artist is a mentor, board member, and mural tour guide at Precita Eyes Muralists. Sultan continues to create art in the studio he and Jenny shared, and is currently using papier mâché to create a series of self-portraits.

The exhibit opens June 10 and runs through July 31 with a reception for the artists on June 18, 1 to 3 p.m., in Thomas Starr King’s Gallery at First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin St.

—Kit Cameron

Watch the Parking Meters

You probably saw the news in last month’s Rumors column: the city is expanding parking meter hours to evenings and Sundays in Noe Valley and neighborhoods throughout San Francisco. But don’t panic.

According to its announcement May 16, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency “will extend parking meter hours until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and add Sunday meter hours from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m., beginning July 2023 and continuing in phases through December 2024.”

Implementation of the change for Noe Valley, Glen Park, and Bernal Heights will start in Phase 4, running January to March 2024. The Inner Mission, Mission south of 24th Street, and Calle 24/24th Street are part of the final Phase 6, running May to December 2024. The current meter hours for Noe Valley are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

A few neighborhoods already have the longer hours, noted SFMTA blogger duo Melissa Culross and Pamela Johnson. They pointed out that meters run into the evenings in Fisherman’s Wharf (7 p.m.), Potrero Hill and Mission Bay (10 p.m.), and the northern and eastern waterfronts (11 p.m.). Fisherman’s Wharf and those same waterfronts already have Sunday metering, too.

The SFMTA argues that longer metering hours means parking spaces will turn over more quickly and fewer cars will be driving around searching for spots (and thus polluting the atmosphere). Also, extending meter hours will help the transit system avoid “a potentially catastrophic budget shortfall [and] a projected \$130 million deficit starting in FY 2025.” Without more funding, the agency says, it will be forced to cut “the equivalent of 20 Muni lines.”

Culross/Johnson noted that the city would replace the meters before the new times started. The new meters, they said, will have “bigger, brighter, and easier to use screens.” No mention was made of the rates. Gulp.

To find out more, write meterhours@sfmta.com, visit the project website (SFMTA.com/ModernizingMeterHours), or call 415-646-2228.

—Sally Smith

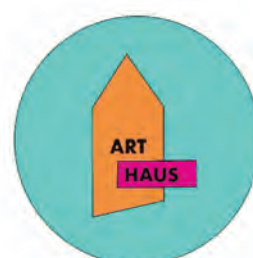
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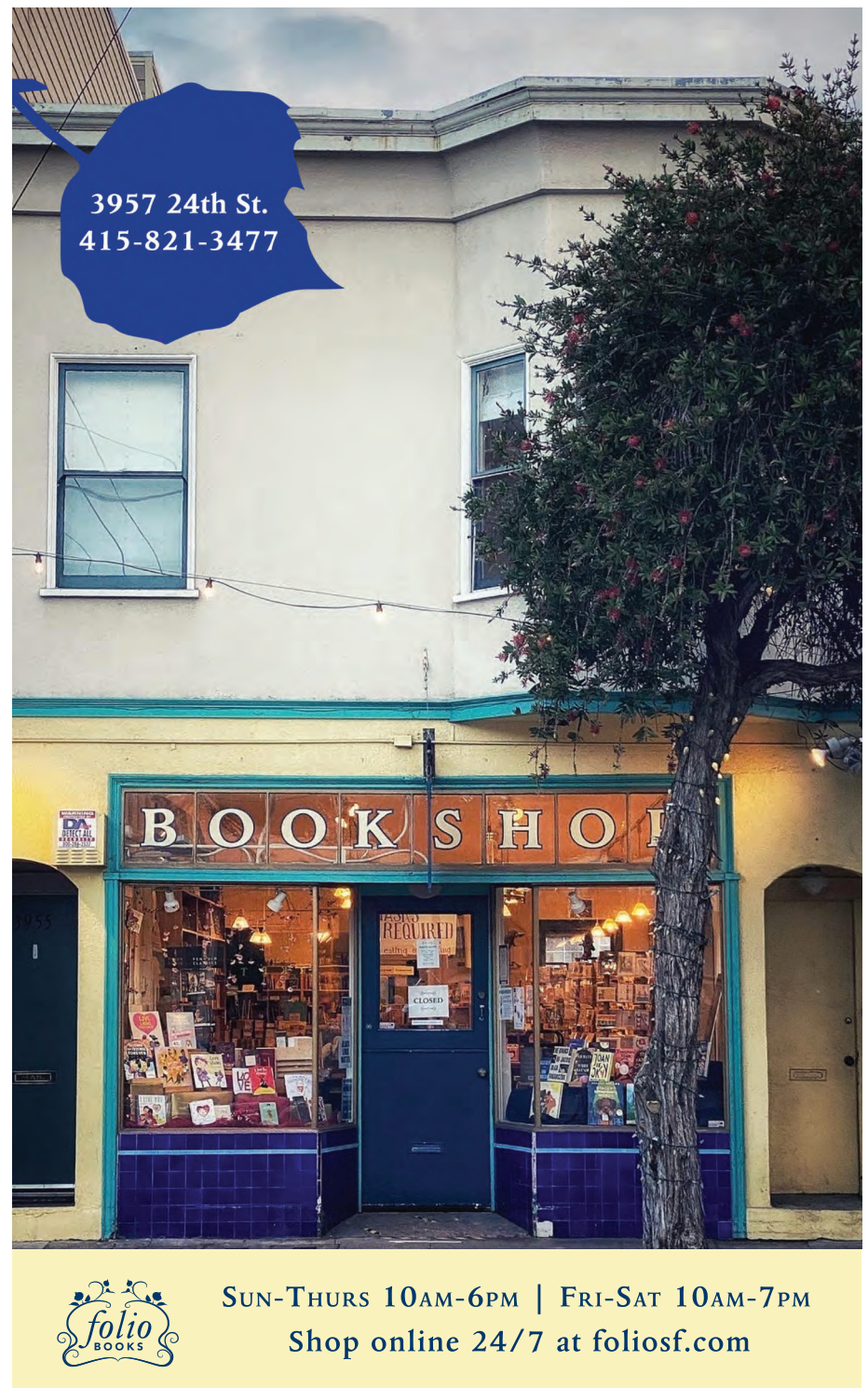


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers Remain ‘Picky’

By Corrie M. Anders

Like the red-tailed hawks on Billy Goat Hill, shoppers were finding nests in Noe Valley in April, buying 17 homes, including three with price tags over \$4.5 million.

The tally was three more than in March, but nine fewer than in April a year ago, according to data provided to the Noe Valley Voice by Corcoran Icon Properties.

It was apparent that high interest rates and recession jitters continued to restrain residential sales.

“I think buyers are pickier and taking more time” to commit to a property,



This ultramodern five-bedroom house on 28th Street featured the finest that \$4,995,000 could buy in April, including vaulted ceilings, rooftop views, and an in-law studio apartment.

said Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick. “And even if you have more buyers coming to the table, they are not going overboard in what they are offering.”

In the “single-family” home category, buyers submitted bids averaging just 2 percent more than the seller’s asking price, contrasted with 22 percent the same month last year.

Contributing to the slow pace was the relative scarcity of homes in Noe Valley this spring, said Kostick. In April, for example, 65 new homes hit the market. That was half the number of properties homeowners made available in April 2022 (121).

“People are married to their interest rates,” said Kostick, explaining that owners whose current mortgage was low were understandably reluctant to sell their property and buy a new home at a higher rate.

Mortgage rates hovered around 3 percent from July 2020 through December 2021, then began to rise, hitting an average 6.4 percent in April of this year. In mid-May, they had reached 6.9 percent.



The hillside location of a three-bedroom condominium in this Edwardian on Homestead Street afforded views of the East Bay for those who purchased it in April for \$2.5 million. The home also featured a back yard with apple, lemon, and apricot trees.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2023	Average May 2023	Average April 2023	Average May 2022
Studio	8	\$2,000 – \$2,595	\$2,306 / mo.	\$2,254 / mo.	\$2,193 / mo.
1-bdrm	34	\$1,725 – \$6,000	\$2,977 / mo.	\$3,096 / mo.	\$2,939 / mo.
2-bdrm	34	\$2,995 – \$6,600	\$4,120 / mo.	\$4,054 / mo.	\$4,115 / mo.
3-bdrm	22	\$3,750 – \$9,500	\$5,574 / mo.	\$5,957 / mo.	\$5,428 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$5,999 – \$18,500	\$11,105 / mo.	\$9,851 / mo.	\$9,042 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 105 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from April 12 to May 10, 2023. In May 2022, there were 142 listings.

NVV6/2023

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						
April 2023	8	\$1,700,000	\$4,995,000	\$3,151,870	22	102%
March 2023	6	\$1,500,000	\$4,100,000	\$2,242,083	29	105%
April 2022	14	\$1,850,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,571,071	14	122%
Condominiums/TICs						
April 2023	7	\$1,115,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,795,714	40	106%
March 2023	8	\$830,000	\$3,260,000	\$1,789,374	19	105%
April 2022	10	\$960,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,602,400	18	115%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2023	1	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	12	107%
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2022	2	\$2,175,000	\$2,280,000	\$2,227,500	31	99%
5+unit buildings						
April 2023	1	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	\$2,190,000	53	95%
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—

*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 6/2023

“You only get half the house for the same money,” Kostick said. “That’s not very attractive.”

Kostick noted that one of the three \$4.5-million-plus buyers in April signed a contract for \$800,000 less than what the seller had initially sought.

But the three “high-enders” all shared one thing: the number five.

A five-bedroom, five-bath home in the 200 block of Clipper Street, between Sanchez and Noe streets, sold for the seller’s asking price of \$4.5 million.

A five-bedroom, five-bath house on the first block of Day Street, between Dolores Street and San Jose Avenue, sold for \$4.7 million. That was 14.5 percent below the listed price (\$5,495,000).

Bathrooms to Spare

The most expensive Noe Valley home in April, selling for its asking price of \$4,995,000, boasted five bedrooms as well, but it offered six bathrooms on its four floors totalling 4,105 square feet of living space.

Built in 2021 and designed by John Lum Architecture, the modern jewel in the 600 block of 28th Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets, featured floor-to-ceiling glass walls, Gaggenau appliances, a kitchen island with “waterfall” marble siding, radiant floor heat, air conditioning on the top-floor level, and a roof deck (with a hot tub)

offering views of the city and beyond. The property also included an in-law apartment, two terraces leading to a backyard garden, and a two-car garage with EV plug-in.

The three luxury homes helped push the average price of a detached home in April to nearly \$3.2 million—a hefty outlay but way below the \$3.6 million average in April 2022.

A ‘House-Like’ Condominium

The typical condo in April cost \$1.8 million, about \$200,000 more on average than in April a year ago. Buyers paid 6 percent above the asking price, compared to 15 percent more in 2022.

The priciest condo this go-round was a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath home on Homestead Street between 24th and 25th streets. The unit sold for \$2.5 million—13.9 percent more than its asking price (\$1,195,000).

With 2,430 square feet of living space, it was the largest of two residences in an Edwardian constructed in 1909 and renovated in 2006. The home’s open-plan design affords living and dining areas that flow to a breakfast nook or deck with panoramic views. The professional kitchen featured a six-burner Viking range, Calacatta Oro marble countertops, a walk-in pantry, and a marble island with stool seating.

Topping it all off was a landscaped garden with numerous fruit and decorative trees. ■



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Where the Voice Readers



Santiago Esparaza joined his son **Mateo Dunn the Magician** on 24th Street last month.

Photo by Sally Smith



Jenny Hanson and daughter Antonia Franci kept their Voice dry while paddleboarding in the tidal basin at our nation's capital.

Want to show your neighbors what you've been up to and where you've been?
Pack a copy of the *Noe Valley Voice* in your luggage and send a photo to
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CRYSTELLE PEREIRA • FLAVOR KITCHEN: VIBRANT RECIPES WITH CREATIVE TWISTS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Inspired by her travels and heritage, a Great British Bake Off alum showcases her Portuguese-Goan roots and pantry creativity!

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PAILIN CHONGCHITNANT • SABAI: 100 SIMPLE THAI RECIPES FOR ANY DAY OF THE WEEK • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Sabai means comfortable, or relaxed. Feel sabai in your own kitchen as Pai empowers you to make Thai food part of your everyday routine.



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Something Missing

By Ella Rosenblatt

WINTER

The wind bit at her neck and crawled up her legs, sneaking itself into those very places she did her best to cover. She fidgeted with the keys, eager for the warmth of her house.

As she pulled off her jacket, she caught a whiff of menthol cigarettes and Victoria's Secret perfume, cool and sweet. Reminded of her night, she felt an aching in her chest. She was tired. She was lonely.

She wanted someone to soothe the aching, to rub Vicks on her chest, to warm her cold body, to fill the emptiness in her.

There was Something Missing.

As she took off her makeup, she looked in the mirror, watching pinky-orange skin turn translucent, revealing red bumps and dark purple circles. She had to look away from the mirror before tears escaped her eyes.

When she looked down at the wipe, several eyelashes lay amidst the black and pink smears. She debated picking them off the wipe and making wishes but decided against it. This felt like cheating.

Her phone buzzed once, twice, three times. She read text after text about their nights, their boyfriends, their loves. She replied with purple hearts and exclamation points, feeling the cold spread through her body.

She dreamt about yellow daisies and soft rain and what was Missing, waking only to turn up the heat.

SPRING

The snow melted. But the cold in her did not leave.

As grass and flowers grew, she seemed to shrink and shrivel. The monotony of day-to-day life was becoming unbearable. Classes dragged on slowly. Breaks were worse. People gathered outside in pairs. There was the blue boy and the girl with honey hair. There was the couple with pink cheeks, and the one with silver eyes. She made her way over to a seat in the school garden. She noticed the lilac



Wendy's Rose 2.

Illustration by Jack Tipple

flowers bunched in a corner. One of them was growing slightly farther from the rest. It tilted its head towards the others, longing to be nearer. She turned and watched the silver eyes as they met each other, the pink cheeks as they turned red with lust, and the blue boy as he ran his hands through the honey hair.

She returned home with these pairs on her mind. Undressing, she examined her figure. Small body. Not quite small enough. She poked at her stomach and ran her hands lightly over her breasts. She wanted to blame this body for the Something Missing. But she knew it was

not so. She knew her body was, in fact, the closest thing she had to the Something Missing. It was the thing connecting her to the array of after-shaves, broad chests, and muscled arms. But of these bodies she knew, none had pink cheeks or silver eyes. None were blue. And none would really be hers.

SUMMER

He bit at her neck and crawled his hands up her legs, sneaking himself into those very places she did her best to cover. This is fun, she told herself. As

their bodies rocked, she dreamt of ice-cold lemonade and trips to Spain and someone to love. Afterward, he held her. His hand, warm from the heat of summer, traced her shoulder. She felt okay. Distracted. Good enough.

FALL

When the falling leaves settled, so did she. She did not think so much about the Something Missing.

She spent time with the mountains and the books. She cooked mushrooms like her grandma had taught her and took long baths in warm, soapy water. She let him touch her in the places she had tried to cover. It was not quite it, but it was close enough.

Sometimes though, in moments of quiet desperation, of inexorable loneliness, she would look up at the autumn sky, suck in her breath, and watch the clouds—the shapes reminding her of someone that she knew but that she had not yet met.

Feeling the cold pierce her heart, she would dig her nails deep into her chest trying to get rid of the ice. Only when she saw little drops of blood run down her stomach would she stop.

And then breathe. She would return. Sinking back into her routine, distracting herself with sweet, juicy plums and bright green nail polish, waiting for the next moment that the paleness of her skin, the loneliness of the lilac flower, the stillness of the night would catch her attention and remind her. ■

Ella Rosenblatt is a recent graduate of Pitzer College with a degree in Environmental Analysis and a minor in English. She is interested in how writing and poetry can be used not only as forms of expression but as modes of activism, specifically in the realm of environmental work. She considers much of her poetry work to be part of the ecopoetics tradition.

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Designing Your Earthquake Kit

Suzanne Herel and Sally Smith
Illustrations by Karol Barske

Are you ready to face the next earthquake, severe weather event, or health emergency? Think of the things you might need in order to live for a week without water or electricity.

Below is a list of items to put in your home preparedness kit, suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department’s Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). To get more informaton or to find out about the department’s trainings in disaster preparedness, call 415-970-2022 or visit sffdnet@sfgov.org or www.sfgov.org/sfnet.



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 sanitiz-er, toilet paper, sham-poo, toothbrush, and toothpaste.



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

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, prescriptions, medica-tions, 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 photo



A brilliant crescent Moon and the planet Venus pierce through the fog over Upper Noe Rec Center in late May.
Photo by Chris Faust

Summer Days Ahead

Summer Session at Upper Noe Rec Center begins June 6. And on June 26, Summer hours expand to include Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with more Pickleball time and more Open Gym. For a gentler activity, we recom-mend International Folk Dancing on Wednesdays from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Prior to June 6, the building will remain open for activities like Zumba, Pickleball, Open Gym, Advanced Volleyball, and A Place to Play. Many classes and activities are drop-in and free. Call the office at 415 970-8061 or visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com for more information.

The group Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center lobbies relentlessly to ensure the grounds are safe and attractive. The most effective way to improve park conditions is to alert San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1), either by phone, web, or the easy-to-use phone app, if you spot a problem. Park personnel rely on your reports to prioritize service requests. Help them keep the 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

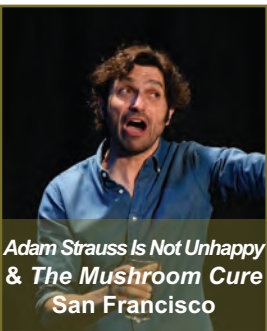
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)

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

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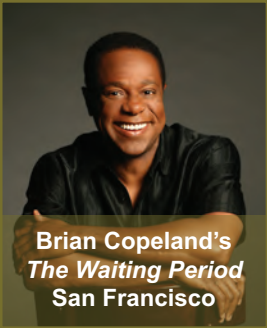
Adam Strauss Is Not Unhappy & The Mushroom Cure
San Francisco



Marga Gomez’s Swimming With Lesbians
SF • June 11 - 25



The Never Too Late Show starring Don Reed
SF • Starts June 10



Brian Copeland’s The Waiting Period
San Francisco



Josh Kornbluth’s Citizen Brain
Berkeley • Starts June 10



Craig & MacGregor’s Not Just Jazz
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Mon & Wed
JOUR 24: News Production I 3.0 3.0
12:10-02:00PM; 12:10-01:25PM

Mon
JOUR 29A: Intro. to Magazine Editing and Production 3.0
4:10-6:00PM; 6:10-9:00PM

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JOUR 29B: Intm. Magazine Editing and Production 3.0
4:10-6:00PM; 6:10-9:00PM

Mon
JOUR 29C: Adv. Magazine Editing and Production 3.0
4:10-6:00PM; 6:10-9:00PM

TBA
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JOUR 37: Intro. to Photojournalism 3.0
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<https://www.ccsf.edu/academics/class-schedule>

Questions about courses & registration?
Email or Call Juan Gonzales
415.517.4426 accionjg@aol.com

etc
THE GUARDSMAN

STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature, highlighting new stores, restaurants, and other businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we feature a yoga studio that has faced a number of changes in the past few years.

FOLK YOGA
4159B 24th Street Unit B
415-552-9644
<https://folksf.com/locations/noe/>

Earlier this year, David Nelson rebranded his seven yoga studios around San Francisco under the name of Folk Yoga. The business included the location at 4159 24th St., between Castro and Diamond streets, that formerly had housed Moxie, a yoga studio he acquired a majority ownership stake in last year.

He also had a designer create a new logo that includes a stylized version of a person. It is reminiscent of the people found in the artwork and graffiti of the famed late gay artist Keith Haring.

“As we looked at what made us and what we are, it boiled down to people and relationships with people,” explained Nelson of the new name and imagery. “What makes us what we are is the people.”

Folk Yoga’s Noe Valley location has a 1,500 sq. ft. wood-floored room for yoga and fitness classes in the ground floor of its building. A light well on the left wall allows in sunlight through a set of windows, while in the back is a bathroom on the right side and on the left is the door into a smaller room for storage.

The expansive space can accommodate up to 25 yoga mats. The studio isn’t readily seen from the sidewalk, as there is a smaller entrance area for a reception desk, seating, and a small retail shelf displaying branded shirts and water bottles for sale. Classes on offer include Foundations Yoga, which focuses on yoga asana (posture) and pranayama (breath regulation), and Prenatal Yoga, geared for those at any point in their pregnancy. A special yoga class for queer and transgender practitioners takes place Thursday evenings, while strength-training classes are held throughout the week.

No one works full-time at Folk, since all payments and class signups are now handled online. Different yoga instructors cycle in and out throughout the day, opening up the space for their classes. Walk-ins are currently not allowed.

“We do require pre-signups. It keeps it so much simpler,” said Nelson. “Everything is done online, and you pay ahead of time.”

Nelson, Folk’s CEO, opened his first yoga studio in the city’s Castro district in 1998 with co-owner Darren Main. They then acquired a building on Divisadero Street in NoPa (North of the Panhandle) in 2004 and relocated their business. They also renamed it Yoga Garden due to the garden setting of the new space.

Main eventually departed as a co-owner, though he still teaches yoga classes for Folk. Nelson’s acquisition of Moxie in March last year brought six additional yoga studio locations under his management.

In addition to the Noe Valley and



Instructor Kat Edwards demonstrates a chair pose in her flow yoga class at Folk Yoga on 24th Street near Diamond Street. Photo by Art Bodner

NoPa studios, there are now Folk Yoga locations in Nob Hill, the Mission, Bernal, the Richmond, and the Sunset. With the Covid pandemic ebbing due to the rollout of vaccines for the coronavirus, Nelson saw buying Moxie as a good business decision at the time.

“I felt it was coming to an end,” recalled Nelson.

While he had moved his business online at the start of the pandemic in 2020, Nelson knew remaining virtual wasn’t economically feasible. The video yoga classes didn’t bring in the same revenue as in-person offerings had, and he saw taking over Moxie as a way to quickly build up the physical, in-person experience.

“I took a bet that was the direction the community was moving in and that people were not going to stay in their apartments forever, so it was a gamble,” said Nelson. “It has been a slow build. It is definitely not back to where it was. We are at 50 percent overall, though some classes are packed.”

One advantage for his business, ironically, is a faltering local economy, noted Nelson, who pointed out that taking a yoga class is less expensive than going out to dinner with friends. Thus, he isn’t concerned about the recent wave of layoffs at local tech companies hurting his bottom line.

“It is the same thing with movies. When the economy tanks, doing yoga is a relatively cheap activity,” said Nelson.

Folk Yoga offers a special deal of \$15 for a person’s first class, and if they want to come back, they can apply it toward the cost of its All Access Membership, which costs \$79 for the first month and \$199 thereafter.

Single classes normally run \$30, though a 10-class pass that must be used within 90 days can be bought for \$260.

The biggest challenge Nelson faced this spring was hiring enough yoga teachers to meet the demand for classes. He now employs 80 teachers who offer a combined 200 classes a week at the various Folk locations, and says he could accommodate much more with an increased staff.

“The number of people we are hiring has just been crazy,” said Nelson.

To help fill the positions, Folk Yoga runs a school to train instructors out of its NoPa location. The trainings run a

total of 200 hours, and graduates gain listing on an industry registry for certified yoga teachers. (The state of California doesn’t have a license for yoga teachers as it does for other professions.)

Before switching his career focus to yoga, Nelson formerly worked as the budget director at the University of San Francisco. A fitness buff and single gay dad—his daughter Arielle, 19, attends a Parisian art college, and his younger daughter, Ingrid, 16, is in high school—Nelson took up yoga in the 1990s for


his own health reasons.

“I started for my back, and it has been doing wonders for me,” he said.

Folk Yoga offers classes at its Noe Valley location seven days a week at various times. Its instructors also offer free 60-minute yoga sessions at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Noe Valley Town Square every other week, as it switches off sessions with another local yoga business, Yoga Flow.

The next Folk Yoga dates at the square are June 4 and 18.


—Matthew S. Bajko




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June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Noe Valley Library hosts a Family STORYTIME on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am; space is limited.

June 1-11: The 22nd SF DOCUMENTARY Film Festival, featuring local filmmakers, will be held at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th, and online. sfdocfest2023.eventive.org

June 1-July 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

June 1-July 22: CHUNG 24 Gallery shows “Remnants,” an exhibition of photographic montage and mixed media by Liz Steketee. Wed.-Sat., 1:30-6 pm. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

June 1-July 31: GALLERY SANCHEZ at the Noe Valley Ministry exhibits “Nature & Nurture: Landscape and Cultural Parody” by multimedia artist Ken Sakatani. Reception June 3, 2-4 pm; check gallery hours, ken@sakataniarts.com. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 3: Chamber group Ensemble for These Times performs “CRYSTAL: 15th Anniversary Celebration.” 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. e4tt.org

June 3-18: The 2023 San Francisco International ARTS FESTIVAL features music, dance, art and spoken word performances at various venues, including Brava Theater, 2781 24th. 399-9554; sfiaf.org

June 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce and fun, Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

June 3-24: NOE WALKS traipses all around the neighborhood on Saturdays, starting at 10 am. Meet at 24th and Sanchez.

June 4: ACTION SF hosts virtual monthly meetings, open to all, from noon to 1:30 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

June 4: Look for the screening or streaming of SEAN DORSEY *Dance: Dreaming Trans and Queer Futures* at the SF Indie Fest. 9 pm. Roxie Theater, 3117 16th. sfindie.org

JUNE CALENDAR

June 4, 11 & 18: Folk and Yoga Flow alternate Sundays with free YOGA; bring your own mat, water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 5: ODD MONDAYS celebrates Queer Pride Month with readings by Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Miah Jeffra, and Ajuan Mance. 7-8 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. facebook.com/OddMondays

June 6: Children and their families are invited to draw images on SCRATCH-BOARD. 2:30-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 7: Members of the SISTERS of Perpetual Indulgence share their “Sistory” at a special evening at Bethany UMC. 7-8 pm. 1270 Sanchez. bethanysf.org

June 8: Poet Laureate Kim Shuck’s POEM JAM features writers from Oakland’s *Beast Crawl*. 6-7:15 pm. The Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

June 8: The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

June 8 & 24: Omnivore Books on Food hosts CHEFS and culinary artists Hetty McKinnon *Tenderheart: A Cookbook About Vegetables and Unbreakable Family Bonds* in conversation with Soliel Ho, June 8, 6:30 pm, and Crystelle Pereira (*Flavor Kitchen: Vibrant Recipes with Creative Twists*) June 24, 3 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

June 9: FRIDAY MATINEE at the Noe Valley Library features *My Beautiful Laundrette*, a 1985 romantic comedy/drama. 2-3:45 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 10: The Golden Thread FAIRYTALE PLAYERS perform folktales for all ages, from Central Asia, Turkey, Iran, and the Arab world. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 10-July 30: Kings Gallery at the First Unitarian Church exhibits “PAINTINGS Inspired by Landscape,” by Hank Sultan and Jenny Badger Sultan. Reception June 18, 1-4:30 pm. 1187 Franklin. 776-4580; hanksultan@gmail.com

June 11: Teens and adults are invited to a FOLDED BOOK ART workshop. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 12-Aug. 5: Rec and Park’s free GIANTS ACADEMY program for middle- and high-schoolers offers weekday practices and Saturday games. academysfrec.leagueapps.com

June 14: Children ages 7 and up can create ball runs with ramps, funnels, jumps using WOODEN PLANKS. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 14: As part of Pride Month, see the 2005 film *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria* with trans women and drag queens at Bethany UMC. 7 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 415-647-8393; bethanysf.org

June 14: SHAPING SAN FRANCISCO hosts a free public talk, “The New Deal in San Francisco.” 7:30 pm. 518 Valencia. shapingsf.org

June 17: The Museum of the African Diaspora celebrates JUNETEENTH with free admission, performances, and activities for the whole family; the monthly Community Free Day is June 10, the second Saturday. 11 am-6 pm. moadsf.org

June 17: The Civic Symphony Association performs a free afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC. 3 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 17: Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout class, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 18: A WATERCOLOR workshop for teens uses Willam H. Johnson’s art as mentor pieces, on Sunday, from 2 to 3 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 18: HEROES DAY at the Town Square introduces SF Police Officers, firefighters, and first responders, a fire truck, and a police car to climb onto, and a superhero costume contest. 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 21: The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 21: See and discuss the 2018 FILM *Call Her Ganda*, about the 2005 murder of a Filipina trans woman. 7 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 415-647-8393; bethanysf.org

June 21: Upper Noe Neighbors celebrates “The HISTORY of Upper Noe” at its bi-monthly community meeting. 7-8:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center Auditorium, 295 Day. Info@noevalleyreccenter.com

June 24: The WORLD LITERATURE Book Club’s selection is *Giovanni’s Room* by James Baldwin. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 24: Mamahuhu and Folio Books host the second meeting of the Chinese-American LITERATURE CLUB, with a discussion of Elaine Hsieh Chou’s novel *Disorientation*. 6 pm. Reserve your spot at meghan@eatmamahuhu.com

June 24: Baritone Elliot Franks and pianist Daniel Lockert perform a SONG CYCLE, “decomposition / little histories / renewal,” written by Grey Rose Grant. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 25: The Acoustic Sunday CONCERT at the Town Square features Vancouver singer/songwriter TJ Hermiston. 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 28: The fourth annual DRAG SHOW and LGBTQIA+ fundraiser kicks off at 7 pm at Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 415-647-8393; bethanysf.org

June 29: Bird & Beckett hosts readings by POETS Angie Minkin, Heather Estes Saunders, and Robin Michel, plus Magic Dan. 7:30-9:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

July in the Sky

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

and now for the

RUMORS

behind the news

La Vida Salsa

By Mazook

TOWN SQUARE DANCING: Around 500 neighborhoodies showed up at the Cuban Salsa Party at the Noe Valley Town Square the evening of Saturday, May 13. About 300 wannabe dancers came early to participate in a half-hour dance lesson. For many, it was a family affair, with moms, dads, and kids all learning the steps, then dancing until 9 p.m. A lot of seniors also showed up to do Salsa Cubana.

For me, it was incredible to see so many happy faces in the Town Square. Dance organizer Gil Guillermo, who also directs the music at the Saturday Farmers Market, and Town Square boss Leslie Crawford both estimated the attendance at 500 to 600. Wow!

“I have never seen so many people, all of them smiling, in the Town Square since we opened it in 2016,” said Crawford.

Said Guillermo, “It was truly amazing. It was exactly what my dream is.

“I have organized many salsa dance parties in the Mission and attended many more,” says Guillermo, “and I have never seen this kind of turnout at any of these events, and so heartfelt that everyone was so happy to dance, from the toddlers to seniors.”

The salsa started with dance lessons promptly at 7 p.m., led by a well-known salsa teacher, Yismary Ramos, and Dennis Baim Savigne, who got the crowd to learn the basic steps to a 1-2-3-4 beat, provided by early arrivals from the band Los Jefes. They were jamming with two special guests, Anthony Blea on violin and Mario Vega on flute and sax. Soon everyone was in the groove.

By 7:30 the whole band had arrived and began playing the full salsa sound. The band members were current and former students from Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts, located at the top of Glen Canyon. They included Ceferino Vergara-Tucker, band leader, percussion, lead vocals; Belén Cortés, lead vocals, percussion; Mateo Sigüenza, bass; Ezra Mass, keyboard; Adrián Blanco, trombone; D'Antonio Perry, trombone; Gian Marco Velásquez, percussion; and Rogelio Murillo, percussion. Oh, and by the way, lead vocalist Belén Cortés graduated from RASFSOTA last year but stayed on with the band to further her musical arts.

Guillermo says that Cefe and Ezra are graduating this year and going off to college, so the band will break up at the end of summer.

Because of the overwhelming neighborhood response at the Salsa Party, there will be an encore at the Town Square on Saturday, Aug. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m., Guillermo says.

Mark your calendars now. I'll see you there!



A BLOOMING SUCCESS was this year's Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour, on May 6. Tickets ran \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and free for kids.

According to co-organizer Linda Lockyer (with Peggy Cling), 420 tickets were sold, “which was more than we had ever sold in previous garden tours. We ran into a problem since we

only printed 300 tickets, and we had to Xerox another 120 tickets to give out on the day of the event.”

Lockyer said the turnout far exceeded her wildest expectations and if you counted the children, “we had almost 600 people attending this event.”

There was cello playing in the front garden of the old Mayor Sunny Jim Rolph house at Sanchez and 21st Street, and the Liberty Street Band rocked out on Slow Sanchez at the corner of Duncan.

“I was quite surprised by the number of raffle tickets we sold, which were \$1 each or \$20 for 30 tickets. We are still counting up the money,” said Cling.

“At last count,” said Lockyer, “we sold almost 800 tickets.”

“What amazed me,” noted Cling, was “the demographics of the five winners of the prizes. They were from five different San Francisco neighborhoods. The five prizes were won by five lucky people who live in Noe Valley, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, and the Mission.”

Half the tickets were sold online and half at stores in the neighborhood. The merchants selling tickets included Folio Books, Just for Fun, Olive This Olive That, Omnivore Books on Food, and When Modern Was. And the Friends haven't gotten all the online receipts yet, Cling says.

Also, for those of you who like lists: The Gold Donors to the tour were Dennis Otto from Compass Real Estate, Novy, Sloat Garden Center, Urban Farmer Store, and Danielle Lazier from Vivre Real Estate. Local businesses sponsors also included BJ Droubi from Generation Real Estate, Corcoran Icon Properties, David Pennebaker from Compass, Dirty Hoe Landscaping, Flora Grubb Gardens, Flowercraft Garden Center, Love and Stem, Mitchell's Ice Cream, Noe Valley Farmers Market, Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals Association, SkinSpirit, and Urban Scout.

Thanks to all!



UPDATIN' THE UPDATES: Regarding all the fears that the Mona Caron mural on the west side of the Town Square could be removed by the eventual buyer of the Haystack building, I heard from Henry "Hank" Sultan, Upper Noe artist and member of the board of directors of Precita Eyes Muralists since 1986.

Sultan writes, “I just read in the *Voice* May issue about Mona Caron's mural at the Town Square. For your information, if a building owner paints out or destroys a mural on their building without permission of the muralist, said owner is liable and can be sued.”

He continues: “There is a federal law

about this. That is because of a suit of a San Francisco building owner who painted out a mural a number of years ago.... I am sure Mona knows about this law too. So the citizens of Noe Valley should not be upset because if the new owner of the building paints out Mona's mural, they are going to pay a steep price, and knowing Mona, she will paint a new one again.”

There will be an update on PG&E's plans to replace the gas lines on the 4000 block of 24th Street (at Castro) starting at the end of June. The four restaurants with parklets on that block were notified they would have to remove them while the street is being dug up. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 1, at 9 a.m., with PG&E representatives, an aide to Supervisor Mandelman, and the four businesses with parklets. I plan to be there and will pass along to you the news in the July issue.

The former Shoe Biz storefront at 3810 24th St., near Church Street, has had a change of use from commercial space to a children's daycare. Applications have been made to the San Francisco Planning Department to remodel the ground floor and mezzanine for the new business, the name of which we do not know.

In local banking news, the failed First Republic Bank on the corner of Castro and Jersey is already a JPMorgan Chase branch. JPMorgan wrote in a May 11 email that it would provide notice, severance, and access to transitional health benefits to any First Republic employees who were not offered jobs, and that the staff would be notified of employment decisions by the first week of June. Also, First Republic customers were instructed to verify their deposits at JPMorgan Chase by Nov. 1, 2024. So you all still have time.

Meanwhile, SF Fire Credit Union (their motto being “We are not a bank”), which recently opened its doors at 3908 24th St. near Sanchez, had its grand opening party on May 20. Assistant Manager Edwin Asis said the block party on Sanchez was “a total success, and we had over 400 RSVPs from people we invited.”

There were a lot of balloons and fire hats for the kids, a tattoo painter, lots of tea samples, and soft serve ice cream for all. Very cool was the 1946 Seagrave vintage fire truck and rescue unit, which was on display along with a modern fire truck. The very affable firemen and firewomen in charge let kids climb on the truck.



WALKIN' THE WALK: On May 26, minutes after my deadline, word came

down that Mayor London Breed was visiting 24th Street, to see how businesses were doing in our commercial corridor. She started off her walk at When Modern Was and proceeded down 24th Street, accompanied by Katy Tang, who directs the city's Small Business Office, and Debra Niemann, head of the Noe Valley Association CBD.

The mayor stopped in at Mamahuhu, Trad Broth, and the plant store Urban Scout, at Vicksburg and 24th, where she held a brief news conference about the status of businesses in San Francisco. Breed then proceeded to walk to Martha & Bros. Coffee, Vive la Tarte, and finally stopped for lunch at Novy. She said was impressed by the number of new businesses on 24th Street and praised the neighborhood's clean, green, and welcoming atmosphere.

News Flash: At May's end, it looked like Starbucks had closed its doors to remodel the interior of the coffee shop at the 24th and Noe. Stand by and stand down. It may be a while before it reopens.



KUDOS to *Voice* contributor and longtime Noe Valley Word Week impresario Richard May. He is celebrating the publication of his latest short-story collection, titled *Because of Roses* (Spectrum Books, 2023). May describes it as “an anthology of 10 short, optimistic stories about men meeting other men and exploring relationships with each other.” One story is about a dairy farmer who looks to OkCupid for love. The title story is about an attorney who, after the death of a partner, finds himself house-hunting in the Cotswolds in England. May, a 21st Street resident, is also the author of *Gay All Year* and numerous other books and short stories.

Kudos also to Video Wave owner Colin Hutton, now in the media spotlight. *SF Examiner* columnist Owen Thomas wrote a story April 21 about “The Video Store That Outlasted Netflix,” Hutton's store at 4027 24th St. Among a number of things Thomas wrote was that Hutton, who bought the biz in 2005 (it was founded in 1983), “can rattle off several titles available on DVD but not on streaming, though [Hutton] points out that what's available on streaming is constantly changing as services pull titles to cut ballooning licensing costs. At its peak, Netflix had an estimated 100,000 DVD titles for rent; over the years, that dwindled to some 4,000.” (And Netflix is ending DVD mail service in September.)

Thomas went on to say Video Wave, with about 27,000 DVDs currently and VHS tapes as well, has survived so long because its customers are now subscribers, paying \$8 a month, with one free rental. But he quotes Hutton on the main reason, community support: “I've lasted longer than other stores because of the community and the neighborhood.”



BEFORE I GO: In my last column, I praised the chimes blowing in the wind, hanging from a plum tree at 4268 24th St.

Well, I talked to the homeowner on a recent walk and told her how much I enjoyed the chimes. She told me she was surprised to find them there as well.

“Somebody came by and hung them there as a gift for all, to enliven 24th Street for those passing by,” she said.

I just love our urban village.

That's 30. See you in July. Ciao for now. ■



Practice, Practice: The Salsa Cubana dance party at the Noe Valley Town Square was such a success in May, the organizers have promised a reprise in August. Photo by Art Bodner

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.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

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

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

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

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

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

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

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

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG)

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.No ValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

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



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY:
228 VICKSBURG STREET



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228 Vicksburg is a fully entitled, shovel ready project with approved plans to build 3 condos that span 6,390 sqft per architectural plans. With its prime location, well-designed floor plans, and modern amenities, the finished product is sure to delight buyers or renters. Don't miss this excellent investment opportunity in the best part of Noe Valley!

Contact Me for More Information

SILVIA ZENG

DRE# 01986529 | 415-335-3975

silvia@teambrannigan.com



COMPASS

SwannGroupSF.Com



Douglass Street | Noe Valley

2 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$1,375,000

Transparent pricing. This designer-inspired garden residence features two spacious bedrooms, one opulent redesigned bath, a well-appointed, newly refreshed kitchen, and a spacious living/dining area that opens to an exclusive use private garden patio. There is a roof deck with sweeping views from Twin Peaks to the East Bay, storage, and laundry. All this is in the heart of Noe Valley, a few blocks from 24th Street restaurants, shops, Philz Coffee, Whole Foods, parks, and transit!

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THE SWANN GROUP DIFFERENCE.
FROM THE BAY AND BEYOND.

26th Street | Noe Valley

5 BED | 4.5 BATH | Offered at \$5,495,000

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



655 Goettingen Street

4 BED | 2 BATH | Offered at \$1,500,000

Welcome home to this breathtaking 4+ bedroom, 2 bathroom single family home with a flexible floorplan and beautiful downtown and city views. This delightful home offers a sunny, open floor plan with remodeled kitchen, inviting breakfast area, spacious living room, and great views on the main level. Three generous bedrooms and one full bath complete this level. The lower level has been recently updated and includes a spacious office area, a generous bedroom, and a media room with access to the expansive patio and yard. 2 car parking - 1 car parking on exterior driveway and 1 car parking in the garage. The backyard is adorned with fruit trees, lush greenery, and a seating area ideal for outdoor entertaining. Fantastic location on a quiet block that is near Highway 101 and 280, dining and retail on San Bruno Avenue, and also close proximity to tennis courts, hiking trails, bike park, and community swimming pool at McLaren Park; San Francisco's second largest park!

280 Spear Street

2 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$1,395,000

SOUTH BEACH. This state-of-the-art residence at the newly built (2020) development, Mira, is an architectural masterpiece with luxury amenities. Enjoy marvelously designed interiors in this two-bedroom, one-bath residence, with custom closets and window treatments. Designed by award-winning architecture firm Studio Gang, and developed by Tishman Speyer, MIRA is an iconic addition to the San Francisco skyline. This residence offers partial views of the Bay Bridge and is one of the rare residences with a generous, private view patio. Situated on the corner of Spear and Folsom Streets, just moments from the Embarcadero, MIRA puts the best of San Francisco within reach. Close to public transportation options, including the Salesforce Transit Center, San Francisco ferry services, BART, MUNI, and bike share. Amenities: fitness center, dog run/park, roof deck, BBQ area, valet parking for 1 car, resident's lounge, and bike room/parking.



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