

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Rudy’s Walking Our Socks Off

And the Star Athlete Is Only 99

By Kathryn Guta

There’s nothing like entering your 100th year to make you take stock and consider what makes life worth living.

Noe Valley resident Rudy Stadlberger turned 99 (the one before the big one) on Feb. 5, and he is easing out of his first century still doing the things he loves, with the people he loves, while also staying open to new adventures. One of his more recent ventures has been to join a neighborhood walking group.

Stadlberger began walking with Noe Walks soon after Chris Nanda, 28, organized the group in July 2021. Nanda thought it would be a good way to build community. “I put up posters around Noe to get the word out. I wasn’t sure if anyone would show up, but after a few weeks the group really took form.”

Stadlberger cuts a lean and colorful figure as he crosses the intersection of 24th and Sanchez, where the group meets every Saturday at 10 a.m.

On this Saturday, he wears an oversized blue and yellow S.F. ball cap, a bright red South End Rowing Club (SERC) jacket, orange sweatpants, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



**Smile As You Stride.** Rudy Stadlberger keeps pace with his neighbors (with a slight head start) while moving along with Noe Walks. After decades of athletic achievements, he may have slowed a bit, but he still keeps a stopwatch to record his times. *Photo by Art Bodner*

## Should George Christopher Park Get a New Name?

Panel Member Says Former Mayor’s ‘War on Vice’ Targeted Gay Bars

By Matthew S. Bajko

A member of an advisory body for San Francisco’s recreation and park department is calling on the agency to rechristen George Christopher Playground in Diamond Heights because of the late mayor’s alleged support for police raids on gay bars during his administration in the late 1950s.

Ken Maley, who represents the city’s third supervisorial district on the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee, announced at the oversight panel’s Jan. 10 meeting his intention to seek a new name for the park, located adjacent to the Diamond Heights Safeway and atop a hill overlooking Glen Canyon.

Maley, 77, a gay man who has called the city home since 1964, said he had learned about Christopher while writing an article for the Spring 2022 edition of *The Semaphore*, a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers neighborhood

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Goldhaft Keeps Dancing Her Activism

’60s Radical Continues to Step Out for Peace and Ecology

By Kit Cameron

Wisps of morning fog hover around Twin Peaks as quietly focused figures center their attention on a slight, lean woman in the Noe Valley Town Square. Beginning with barely perceptible motions, the woman encourages them to sink their concentration into their bodies as they slowly move through a practice honed over generations.

The students appreciate the simplicity of the movements that Judy Goldhaft models.

“It seems simple,” says student Rasa Gustaitis. “Then you get into it and realize it’s more complicated.”

Those same words could apply to Goldhaft. On the surface, she is a soft-spoken teacher who volunteers in her Noe Valley community. But if you look deeper, you’ll find an activist who has used her performance gift to bring about dramatic changes in how we view and use nature.

Growing up in southern New Jersey during the 1950s, Goldhaft explored the forests and farmlands near her home. When she came to California much



**A Breath of Nature:** Judy Goldhaft, a veteran of the Summer of Love and countless hours of social and environmental work, is the graceful teacher of a Thursday morning tai chi class at the Noe Valley Town Square. *Photo by Art Bodner*

later, she was disconcerted to realize she knew none of the local fauna or flora. This was the start of a lifelong passion for the earth and its ecology.

Before that, though, there was dance. At age 4, she remembers, “my parents took me to see a ballet. That’s what I decided to do.” By age 8, she had set forth on her path as a dancer, taking increasingly professional classes until she ultimately enrolled in the graduate program in dance at Mills College.

There she caused consternation by becoming pregnant in her second year. (Son Aaron was born in 1963.)

But Goldhaft had already broken out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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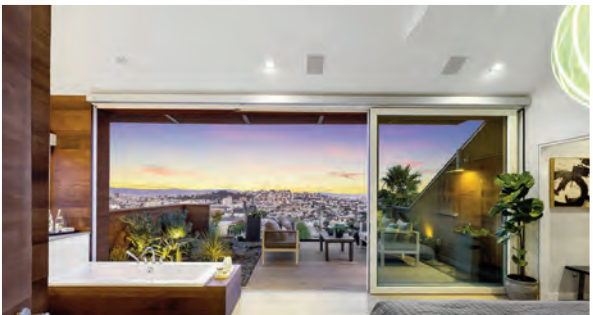
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## Crime Snapshot

Temper in the neighborhood flared a bit more than usual in January. According to data from the San Francisco Police Department, there were seven reported assaults in Noe Valley during the month. Four happened on the east side of Noe Valley, at 26th and Church streets, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, and Sanchez and Day streets. The other three were clustered around 25th and Noe streets. All occurred on different days.

The assaults were among 79 reported incidents in the 10

categories the *Voice* tracks monthly. As usual, the category with the highest tally—32—was larceny/theft. The breakdown was 14 smash-and-grabs from cars, eight swiped license plates, four stripped vehicles, and two each of shoplifting, lost property, and unspecified property theft. Also, eight cars and

seven trucks were stolen. Two of the vehicles were recovered. Burglary was the third most frequently reported offense. Ten homes and one “other” building were targeted. We scraped the January data on Feb. 17, 2023, from Data.sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports February 2022 – January 2023												
Incident Type	Feb22	Mar22	Apr22	May22	Jun22	Jul22	Aug22	Sep22	Oct22	Nov22	Dec22	Jan23
Larceny/Theft	28	24	22	41	45	37	43	28	41	41	26	32
Burglary	9	21	25	17	28	18	20	16	25	10	17	11
Malicious Mischief	3	8	12	10	4	0	5	10	7	7	6	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	7	6	7	11	14	13	16	13	25	10	15
Assault	3	2	0	5	0	0	3	5	7	3	1	7
Robbery	3	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	4	1	1	1
Other Misc.	0	0	9	2	3	5	4	5	10	6	1	5
Fraud	4	3	4	2	2	5	1	0	0	4	6	3
Family D. Violence	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	1
Vandalism	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1
Totals	67	68	78	84	94	90	93	83	107	98	70	79

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* collected the **January 2023 data on Feb. 17, 2023**. “Noe Valley” on the SFPD map is an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.



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# Rudy Stadlberger On Pace to Hit 100

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pull-on shoes. Is he wearing such bright colors to make himself more visible while walking?

“No! I want to be recognized as a South Ender. I’m advertising!”

Stadlberger uses a cane for steadiness, but his gait is sure and strong. There is also a stopwatch around his neck. Nanda was curious about this. “When I asked him about the stopwatch, he said he walks an hour every day and uses the watch to time it.”

Today, Stadlberger is accompanied by his goddaughter, the poet Heather Bourbeau, 53. “She keeps me alive,” he says as Bourbeau reminds him to drink water.

There are some 10 folks already at the intersection, drinking their Martha & Bros. coffee. They greet Stadlberger warmly like an old friend.

He starts off the hike with Bourbeau a bit before the others, as he “doesn’t want to hold anyone back.” While he is blessed not to have any aches or pains, he does realize he has slowed down a bit over the years.

Truthfully, on a cool day and with a full bottle of water, Stadlberger could keep up with the striders in the group, but by shortening his circuit, he is allowing those of us who tag along the chance to hear a favorite story and maybe even the secret to his athletic prowess.

## A Handball Champion

There are many stories of athletic achievement. Stadlberger dominated the U.S. Handball Association’s tournaments for 40 years, winning 13 national handball championships, in men’s singles and doubles. He waves a gnarled right fist like a trophy to prove his mettle. “It’s just arthritis but no pain,” he says.

He is still a bay swimmer with the Rowing Club and once swam the Golden Gate, although he says he is not a very good swimmer. (Hey, it’s all relative!) The South Enders have honored him by naming not only a boat but a handball court after him.

Stadlberger had to postpone swimming during the pandemic due to a lack of transportation, but he hopes to get back in the bay this spring, assuming the water temperature rises to a tolerable 60°F.

While swimming may not have been his strong suit, he admits to being an accomplished runner and bicyclist. He started the Dolphin South End Runners Club (DSE) in the 1960s with three other Dolphin and South Ender club members. The DSE organizes weekly runs in the Bay Area.

As for bicycling, Stadlberger has had a consistent goal of biking a mile for each year of life on his annual birthday ride. At 75, he thought it best to downsize his mileage and make it a kilometer for each year (.621 mile). “The body has its limitations.”

While Stadlberger has had to curb some of his athleticism in recent years—he stopped running at 85 and handball and biking at age 94—he continues to use goals as an important part of his training.

## What Else? Greens and Reads

Today, Nanda has positioned himself at 28th Street, the “shortcut” from Sanchez to Noe Street. (Most of the



Rudy Stadlberger poses after receiving a special commendation from Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and a surprise party complete with hats from his friends in Noe Walks at the top of the Duncan Street Steps on Feb. 4, the day before his 99th birthday. Photo by Art Bodner

group walks one block further to Valley Street and climbs that hill to Noe Street.) Stadlberger has been busy talking and almost misses the turn. The stopwatch comes out, and the game face comes on. His goal today is to make it up the 28th Street hill in 8.5 minutes.

Stadlberger resumes chatting as we ascend the steep incline. He clocks in at 6.5 minutes at Noe Street. “I want to see what condition I am in,” he says, justifiably proud. We note that many of the other walkers have yet to catch up to him. It’s a good day.

“It’s easier when you talk to someone,” says Stadlberger, as this writer stops to catch her breath and we continue our route up Noe to the Duncan Street Steps.

To what else does he attribute his longevity?

Well, there’s the healthy diet. He has a folder containing healthy living articles in his 22nd Street home, which he shares with his son, Fred, 62, and grandson, Jeremy, 45. He’s not a vegetarian, but eats little meat and very little sugar. He used to grow his own sprouts and greens, until his knees didn’t work so well and prevented him from bending down.

Besides eating his vegetables and frequenting the dining hall at On Lok 30th Street Senior Center, he keeps active intellectually by reading. A Stadlberger recommendation is *The Divine Miss Marble* by Robert Weintraub about the legendary tennis player Alice Marble.

Stadlberger recalls a personal experience with Miss Marble’s brother, Dan Marble, who had persuaded his athletic sister to start tennis. “Dan left tennis for handball after he got outplayed by his sister, but Dan was able to outplay me in handball.”

## Noe Follows in His Footsteps

Stadlberger’s love of exercise and his bold approach to life have been inspiring to the Noe Walks group. Nanda swam the Alcatraz swim in September 2022 with Stadlberger’s encouragement.

“He suggested that I should do the Alcatraz swim at the SERC and put me in touch with a friend of his who’d done the swim hundreds of times (no exaggeration). He checked in with me in the weeks leading up to the swim

and then showed up to cheer me on at the race!”

Sue Lipman, 62, finds that Stadlberger inspires her to maintain a “positive and joyful attitude.” After walking with him on the Noe Valley walks, “I enjoyed Rudy’s company so much that I began to join him on some of the walks that he takes daily around the neighborhood,” Lipman said. “He’s still curious to see what’s up Billy Goat Hill, or what’s going on

in the James Lick Middle School playground. He enjoys stopping to take in a view over the Castro and visiting the chickens that live by the Jungle Stairs.”

What’s Rudy’s next challenge?

He’s got his sights set on the Dolphin South Enders’ St. Patrick’s Day 5k run on March 19. He plans to walk it with Heather Bourbeau, but FYI, he’s recruiting others. “Look, if I can do it, anybody can!” ■



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# Christopher Park Name Under Scrutiny

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

association. In it, he concluded that Christopher's inauguration as mayor in 1956 had brought about a crackdown on venues that catered to gay and lesbian patrons.

"I think it is a shame to have a park, particularly any park in the city and particularly in District 8, that is named after George Christopher," said Maley.

He plans to file an official name-change request this spring, likely in April. "I am just writing up my draft to formally file with rec and park," he said in late February. "I have been going through old newspapers of the *San Francisco Chronicle* during [the late mayor's] terms to find more documentation. It is a little tedious, as I have to go down to the library and go through it."

San Francisco officials dedicated the public playground to Christopher on April 7, 1971, seven years after he had left office. Then-mayor Joseph L. Alioto presided over the ceremony, and Christopher was in attendance.

Fifty years later, the 6.8-acre park, accessed from Diamond Heights Boulevard, underwent a \$5.2 million renovation. It includes picnic areas, a baseball diamond, tennis courts, a public bathroom, and a clubhouse, part of which is home to the Noe Valley Cooperative Nursery School.

Christopher, a Greek immigrant, had owned a successful dairy business and would graze his cows by the parkland. He won election as a city supervisor in 1945 and easily won a second term. After losing his 1951 mayoral bid, he ran again four years later and won. As mayor, Christopher lured the New York Giants to town and oversaw the construction of Candlestick Park for the team.

When Christopher took the helm, gay bars were clustered in North Beach and attracting customers among the local Beats and personnel stationed at military bases in Fort Mason and the Presidio. In her 2003 book *Wide-Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965*, Nan Alamilla Boyd wrote that Christopher's "war on vice" began with his sacking of the city's police chief and installing first Frank Ahern in the job and then Tom Cahill after Ahern died. Under Christopher's leadership, noted Boyd, San Francisco "became an increasingly hostile environment for queers."

## ABC Enabled Police

The city's crackdown was aided by the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), which lawmakers in the legislature had created in order to get around a California Supreme Court ruling in 1951 affirming the right of gay people to gather in public. The decision came in *Stoumen vs. Reilly*, brought by Sol Stoumen, the straight owner of the Black Cat in North Beach, a bar that catered to gays and lesbians.

Upset over the suspension of his liquor license, Stoumen sued a statewide tax board to have the permit reinstated. His legal victory brought a brief period of relief for operators of gay and lesbian bars, until the ABC ushered in a new era of raids on such establishments. The ABC made it illegal for people of the same sex to dance, hold hands, or kiss in bars and worked in tandem with the San Francisco Police Department to arrest patrons of



One of the entrances to Christopher Playground is near St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, on Diamond Heights Boulevard near Duncan Street.

Photo by Sally Smith



Besides picnic areas, tennis courts, a clubhouse, and a baseball diamond, the 6.8-acre park has a newly renovated children's play area.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

such "illegal acts."

The ABC and the election in 1955 of Christopher as mayor, the last Republican to lead San Francisco, "transformed the organization of policing in San Francisco, responding indirectly to civic concerns about liquor-related crime and homosexuality," wrote Maley in his historical article. "Mayor Christopher's reorganization of the SFPD, in line with the ABC, 'declared war on homosexual bars in San Francisco,' reviving wartime anti-homosexual campaigns."

Christopher would go on to lose bids in the 1960s for lieutenant governor and U.S. senator. He also failed in his quest to be his party's gubernatorial candidate. Instead, GOP voters chose Ronald Reagan, who went on to win the 1966 race, launching his political career and eventual election as president.

Christopher died Sept. 14, 2000, at the age of 92. The *San Francisco Chronicle's* news obituary made no mention of his campaign against gay bars, and instead quoted another former Greek mayor of the city, Art Agnos, saying Christopher had "told the police, who were harassing gay people, to leave them alone. He was not a liberal in any sense of the word, but he was very strong on civil rights. He was one of my early role models."

## Mandelman to Look Into It

In mid-February, Maley spoke to District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman about his proposal to strip Christopher's name from the playground.

Mandelman, now one of three gay men serving on the Board of Supervisors, has stressed the need for a well-researched, community process around the name of the park.

The supervisor remains mindful of the complaints voiced in 2021 that public input had been lacking when the city's school district convened an advisory group tasked with selecting school sites to rename. The school board

ended up tabling the effort due to the outcry.

"I am not familiar with George Christopher's time as mayor. What are his alleged sins?" asked Mandelman. "I look forward to learning more about George Christopher's history. We will see where this goes."

## Neighbors Will Have Their Say

Meanwhile, neighborhood leaders in Diamond Heights are just hearing about Maley's push to change the name.

"I agree with Supervisor Mandelman that there needs to be a community process in the decision-making about the removing of George Christopher's name and the renaming if needed," said Betsy Eddy, president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. "A real concern of mine is that city departments continue to do things without involving neighborhoods in the processes or even in notifications of planned changes."

Eddy said she had "no idea" what her group's board members would think about changing the playground's name. But she was sure they would look into the issue.

"We would definitely want to be part of the discussions with Friends of Christopher Park," Eddy said

Brynna McNulty, the coordinator since 2016 for the community group created to support the park site, told the *Voice* she was open to hearing Maley's reasons for proposing the name change. Renaming the playground in honor of Diamond Heights UPS driver Mike Lefti after he was murdered in 2017 during a shooting at the company's facility on Potrero Hill had been floated, said McNulty, but it was never formally requested.

"You want the local community to

have a say and be involved if there is going to be any change to the name," said McNulty, whose two children attended the nursery school at the park.

## Rules for Renaming

Tamara Barak Aparton, a spokesperson for rec and park, said the final decision on park site names was up to the seven members of the city's recreation and park commission. It adopted a policy in 1981 laying out the process for naming park sites.

According to it, existing place names are considered "to have historic significance." It will only consider changing the name of an existing facility, "particularly one whose name has city or national significance," if there are "extraordinary circumstances" for doing so and a new facility can't be "so designated."


It further states that existing park names will be modified "only with the greatest reluctance and only to commemorate a person or persons who have made major, overriding contributions to the park, and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized."

The policy also says a park is not to be named after a person until two years after their death, "except in an extraordinary case of overwhelming city-wide civic importance."

Maley said he didn't yet have a person in mind to rename the park site in honor of, though he suggested perhaps a lesbian owner of one of the North Beach gay bars would be an appropriate honoree.

"It may be premature to think about a subsequent name," he said.

*Note: The above story was adapted from a piece Matthew S. Bajko wrote Feb. 1 for the Bay Area Reporter, titled, "Name change eyed for SF park due to late mayor's support of gay bar raids."*



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**Draft 2023-2024 Action Plan**

The Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) invite you to join us for a public hearing. We would like your input on the Draft 2023-2024 Action Plan, which include funding recommendations for fiscal year 2023-2024. This public hearing is part of the annual process to receive community input on funding recommendations and in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan for federal funding.

**Date and Time of Public Hearing**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

You may attend this public hearing online or in-person. Four (4) hybrid meetings, one in English, one in Filipino, one in Cantonese, and one in Spanish, will be held simultaneously. To attend virtually, please register below for the meeting that meets your needs.

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PLEASE NOTE: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom containing information about joining the online meeting.

To attend in-person, the meetings will take place at the MOHCD office located at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor in San Francisco. Please register for in-person attendance by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2023, by emailing Gloria Woo at [gloria.woo@sfgov.org](mailto:gloria.woo@sfgov.org).

The Draft 2023-2024 Action Plan will be available for public review and comment from March 13, 2023 to April 11, 2023. The draft document will be available electronically on the MOHCD website at <https://sfmohcd.org>, OEWD website at <https://oewd.org>, and HSH website at <http://hsh.sfgov.org> on the dates listed above.

Members of the public who wish to provide feedback on the draft document, including funding recommendations, may do so at the March 21st public hearing or by submitting written comments to [gloria.woo@sfgov.org](mailto:gloria.woo@sfgov.org). The deadline for receiving written comments on the draft Action Plan and preliminary funding recommendations is 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023.

For more information, please visit <https://sfmohcd.org>. If you have questions, please email Gloria Woo at [gloria.woo@sfgov.org](mailto:gloria.woo@sfgov.org).

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# A Dancer on the Front Lines of the Ecology Movement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the mold of the typical Mills student. “I had trouble,” she says, “because they told me all kinds of topics were inappropriate to dance.” Still, “I made the determination to make dance about anything.”

A workshop with mime artist and San Francisco Mime Troupe founder Ronnie Davis brought her into the orbit of the Mime Troupe, where she found her true calling in their energetic street theater. “It was the center of creativity,” Goldhaft recalls. And she was in the thick of it, making costumes, performing, and teaching dance.

It was also where she met the man who would become her life partner, Peter Berg. Along with some other Mime Troupe veterans, Berg founded an anarchic cooperative called the Diggers in 1966, named after the 17th-century farmers who, pushed off their lands, lived communally, and imagined a world without kings.

The Diggers, from their base in the Haight-Ashbury, declared, “Everything is free. Do your own thing. Human beings are the means of exchange.”

As Goldhaft puts it, “The Diggers provided the basic necessities of living, so people could be free to do what they wanted to do. And do it beautifully.” “We provided free food in the park every day,” Goldhaft says. “We had a couple of rentals where people could crash. There were free stores in people’s garages. The Haight and the Fillmore were more connected than [they are] now, and there was a Black Man’s Free Store [on Fillmore] also.”

### When Art Was Love

As Goldhaft became more involved with the Diggers, she split from her husband Karl Rosenberg, Aaron’s father, and partnered with Berg.

“Peter and I got together at the same time as the Invisible Circus,” an event Goldhaft describes as a response to the Human Be-In in Golden Gate Park in January 1967.

“The Be-In was people watching a stage. But we wanted the audience to be part of the theater,” she recalls. They arranged the February event at Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin. Everyone who walked through the door became a performer, even if they didn’t mean to be.

Berg slyly invited a police officer to give a “conference” on obscenity and the law, which was undermined by an explosion of belly dancers through a paper wall led by a topless Goldhaft. Strangers coming off the street found a warren of small rooms filled with “love salons” with incense and candles. A member of the audience commandeered the organ to play Chopin. Hells Angels mingled with drag queens.

It was a happy crowd of Beat poets, sailors on shore leave, and anti-war activists, all dancing and cavorting, and the event was supposed to last for a long weekend. But “Glide threw us out after a day [actually 10 hours],” laughs Goldhaft.

The world outside San Francisco called it the Summer of Love and poured into the Haight to experience “free love” and “do your own thing”—both phrases originated by the Diggers.

The Diggers baked bread in coffee cans for their pop-up Free Bakery. They also started a free medical clinic.

As Goldhaft describes it, “1967 was



Judy Goldhaft greets eager fans after a performance of the San Francisco Mime Troupe in Duboce Park in 1966. Photo by Erik Weber

about six years long. We did so many things.”

### Back to the Earth

In the early ’70s, the creative cacophony wound down, and Berg and Goldhaft began their next adventure, a trip across the U.S. in a caravan of 12 trucks to meet with “back-to-the-land” people experimenting with organic farming. They video-recorded their visits to dozens of would-be utopias.

But “everywhere we went,” says Goldhaft, “no matter how far off the superhighway, on dirt roads, there was an ecological catastrophe happening: polluted rivers, pesticide use, Agent Orange used to defoliate areas.”

What they witnessed would plant the seeds for the Planet Drum Foundation, which they established in 1973 after they traded their truck home for a house on the southern side of Potrero Hill. The next year, they moved themselves and the Planet Drum office to a home they purchased at 30th and Harper streets in Noe Valley.

Berg reintroduced the 19th-century concept of a “bioregion” to describe geographical areas in terms of their climate, watershed, land forms, soil, plants, and animals. Crucially, he included humans. With Planet Drum, he, Goldhaft, and others promoted their vision of “a truly sustainable world in which humans are harmonious with and respectful of the natural environment.”

“Indigenous people live that way,” says Goldhaft. “We were 20th-century people trying to incorporate a non-exploitive way to maintain the way we live.”

The foundation evolved into a significant presence in the field of ecology, promoting activism and education in publications, workshops, and books, many still on the Planet Drum website (planetdrum.org).

“Peter was a visionary,” says Goldhaft. “He took in information, and it popped out in new ways.”

### Performing Like Water

While Berg lectured on bioregions, Goldhaft created performance pieces. First, in 1975, she did mime workshops on animal behavior. Then she co-founded the Reinhabitory Theater, which toured Northern California for three years, introducing communities to their local bioregion with tales about its creatures, both real and mythological.

In 1990, she premiered the piece *Water Web*. “I named all the names for water,” Goldhaft says. “It was fun and inspiring and sexy, and more information than you’d ever want to know.” In fact, she says, poet and ecologist Gary Snyder told her, “I covered his entire hydrology course at UC Davis in 20 minutes.”

Tai chi had come into her life in the late ’70s when she began taking classes from tai chi master Bing Gong. (She remains his student, traveling to Point Reyes twice a week to take a class.)

She started teaching tai chi herself in 2013, encouraged by a fellow student at ODC/Dance who knew Goldhaft was conducting seated exercise classes for seniors at residence hotels. A year later, she began teaching a weekly tai chi class at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street.

In 2021, in response to the Covid pandemic, she started leading a free class on Thursday mornings in the town square on 24th Street.

“Tai chi gives you the opportunity to slow down and be aware of your surroundings and your connections to them,” she says.

The child who explored the native plants in her hometown grew up to live in a garden of native plants. In 1985, she and Berg chopped up the 125-foot sidewalk alongside their house to establish the Green City Garden of California Natives. The garden had trees, including a coast live oak, an Islais cherry, and a manzanita, plus ceanothus, sage, California poppies, and native iris and grasses.

Goldhaft makes a pitch for everyone to sow California native grasses: “They sequester more carbon than trees,” she says. She has red fescue seeds to share with anyone who asks.

Since 2011, following Berg’s death from cancer, her mission has been to keep Planet Drum moving forward, communicating with contributors and letter writers, sending out “bundles” (unbound writings, graphics, and maps) and books, and with the help of intermittent volunteers, producing the foundation’s quarterly newsletter.

She also recently traveled to

Ecuador, where for more than 20 years Planet Drum has maintained a presence in conservation. A piece of untouched dry tropical forest owned by Berg and a partner has now passed to his daughter Ocean, and, says Goldhaft, “There is the possibility that this piece will be registered as a nature reserve by the Ecuadorean government.”

### Planet Drum Celebrates 50

Planet Drum reaches its 50-year anniversary this year, and there are plans for an exhibit at the Haight Street Art Center or at the eco center in Heron’s Head Park. Goldhaft also is in conversation with various institutions to place the Planet Drum archives in one place.

A major task has been collating the videos Berg shot on the great excursion cross-country. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Bay Area Video Coalition was able to digitize the raw footage, but that leaves Goldhaft with the task of organizing it, for which she would be happy to have a volunteer. “I’m thinking it will go up on a website as a resource,” she says.

Meanwhile, there are classes to teach and places to go with her two beautiful granddaughters, who live half the year with her and their mother, Ocean, at the house on 30th Street.

And if she feels discouraged that after 60-plus years of her activism promoting peace, freedom, and a healthy planet, humans still seem to be stuck, she looks to the plants on her sidewalk, and her optimism returns.

“I am positive we are doing something—even if it is just educating a couple of people.”

*Judy Goldhaft teaches tai chi at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., and charges a small fee for room rental. Her free class on Thursdays at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street near Vicksburg, also at 9 a.m., will resume in March as weather permits. Both classes are open to new students. If interested, ontact Goldhaft via text at 415-689-0710.*

## JOURNALISTS

### The Noe Valley Voice

is looking for freelance journalists who enjoy reporting on Noe Valley people and places. If you are interested, send an email and a writing sample to Sally Smith at [sally@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:sally@noevalleyvoice.com).

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- Sunday, April 2 10AM - **Palm Sunday** Procession
- Thursday, April 6 6PM -- **Maundy Thursday** Congregational Dinner -- A time to give thanks for community
- Friday, April 7 7PM - **Good Friday** -- Solemn commemoration of the crucifixion
- Saturday, April 8 4PM - **Children's Vigil** with campfire stories & s'mores
- Saturday, April 8 8PM - **Great Vigil of Easter** - ancient service with today's values
- Sunday, April 9 9AM - **Easter Sunday** with Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 9 11AM - **Easter Sunday** with festal choir

*We create our inclusive services designed to create space for reflection and, ultimately, celebration as we move through the week and reflect on our own lives. We are a community in which all are welcome to receive Communion, regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.*

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## Lent, Holy Week & Easter Events

**Labyrinth Walk, Thursday, March 9, 6:30 pm**  
Revive Your Spirit in Serenity  
A Candle-lit Meditation with Quiet Music

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am**  
Procession of the Palms  
A Worship of Joyful Noise!

**Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm**  
Light into Darkness: A Tenebrae Service

**Easter Sunday, April 9, 10:30 am**  
A Worship Celebration with Guest Musicians!  
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Sunday Masses 8 am and 9:30 am  
Saturday April 1 Vigil Mass 4:30pm

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6**  
6:30pm Mass of The Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
11am - Noon Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Noon - 3pm Good Friday Services

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
3:30 - 4:30pm Sacrament Of Reconciliation  
7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9**  
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- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week, April 3, 4, 5**  
Evening Prayer at 7 pm \*
- Maundy Thursday, April 6**  
Liturgy at 7 pm
- Good Friday, April 7**  
Prayer & Meditation, Noon to 3 pm \*  
Stay as long or as little as you like  
Good Friday Liturgy at 7 pm
- Saturday, April 8**  
Great Vigil of Easter at 7 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 9**  
Feast of the Resurrection at 8 am & 10 am

\* Online only. All other services online & in person.

**For connection information:**  
[email: office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org)

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# SHORT TAKES

### Police Chief and D.A. in Noe

Come meet San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott and District Attorney Brooke Jenkins at a District 8 Public Safety Town Hall on Friday, March 10, hosted by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and the group Upper Noe Neighbors (UNN). The event runs 5:30 to 7 p.m., and will take place in the auditorium at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

“These safety town halls are in response to residents’ concerns about persistent property crime, SFPD’s response to drug use/sales, and street conditions,” says UNN president Chris Faust. (A virtual citywide town hall with SFPD Chief Scott will follow on Monday, March 20, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Find the zoom link at [uppernoeneighbors.com](http://uppernoeneighbors.com).)

Faust says the March 10 panel will “provide an opportunity for citizens to voice concerns, ask questions, and hear directly from the newly elected D.A. and our police chief.” Representatives from SF SAFE will also be on hand.

If you can’t make it, bring your ideas to UNN’s next community meeting, on Wednesday, March 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., also at Upper Noe Rec Center. Faust says the annual election of the UNN board, proposed construction along the J-Church line and Slow Sanchez, and the future of Upper Noe’s cityscape will all be on the agenda. Refreshments will be provided.

Go to the UNN website or email [president@uppernoeneighbors.com](mailto:president@uppernoeneighbors.com) for more information.

### Food Lovers Unite

Since September 2021, Omnivore Books on Food has been hosting a full-course meal of free events in its cozy bookshop at the corner of Church and Cesar Chavez streets (3885A Cesar Chavez).

This month, on Monday, March 6, 6:30 p.m., you’ll have a chance to meet Michelin-starred chef Iliana Regan, who will talk about her journey from Indiana to Chicago to the Hiawatha National Forest as revealed in her book *Fieldwork: A Forager’s Memoir*.

The banquet of chefs continues with sea urchin expert Katie Parla, author of *Food of the Italian Islands* (March 15, 6:30 p.m.); Gesine Bullock-Prado, of *My Vermont Table* fame—think maple pulled-pork sliders (March 18, 3 p.m.); and Abi Balingit, sharing her unique pastry recipes from *Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed* on March 25, 3 p.m.

For more about all five events, call Omnivore at 415-282-4712.

### Museum Has Openings

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD) has two exciting opportunities coming up for poets and artists.

The first is a four-month Poets in Residence program giving participants a chance to work on their own projects while also responding to the contemporary art of MOAD through ekphrastic poetry (poetry written about works of art). Resident poets will also help extend the reach of the museum by working in partnership with the Spoken Arts Department at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in Diamond Heights.

Two people will be chosen for these concurrent residencies, which run from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023. There will be a monthly stipend of \$1,500 for four

months. People from the African American diaspora are encouraged to apply. The deadline is March 13, 2023.

The second opportunity is a paid summer internship for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Bay Area high school students. Students who are interested in pursuing careers in art are invited to join the five-week teen internship. The program is designed to empower youth of the African Diaspora to explore visual art as a sustainable career path. To that end, interns will learn how to create a portfolio and make a business plan. They also will get to meet professionals in the art field.

Youth will be paid \$18/hour, plus a transportation stipend. The program starts July 11, 2023, and ends Aug. 11, 2023, and takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and one Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Work will culminate with an event on Aug. 12 at the Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission St. The deadline to submit applications is April 17, 2023.

Applications for both programs can be found at the MOAD website, <https://www.moadsf.org>.



A portrait painted by Elizabeth Dekker will join works by nine other artists March 6 to April 3 in an exhibit called “Women Painted by Women.” at Art Haus gallery, 3977 24th St.

### Art Surrounds Us

Noe Valley is blooming with visual art presentations—perhaps inspired by February’s rain.

Art Haus will celebrate women artists this month with a group show called “Women Painted by Women,” running March 6 to April 3, at the gallery at 3977 24th St. Artists include Jeanette Haxton, Michelle O’Connor, Elaine Pratt, Nanci Reese, Katie Richardson, Roz Ritter, Ruby Smith, Ada Thau, Ayako Tokumine, and Elizabeth Dekker, the gallery’s owner. The opening party will be Saturday, March 11, from 1 to 4 p.m.

For information, contact Dekker at 415-590-2315 or email [info@arthausf.com](mailto:info@arthausf.com). (She also offers art classes for adults and children.) Hours at the gallery are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lola’s Art Gallery, at 1250 Sanchez St., is exhibiting “All Sunsets” through March 29, a show of film photography works by local artist Robert Ogilvie. If you stop by any Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., check out designer/owner Lola Herrera’s fabric creations, as well as the handmade jewelry and other art objects her tiny boutique lovingly displays. Call 415-642-4875 for more details.

Chung 24 Gallery is continuing “A History of Photography” through March 11 in its bright white space at 4071 24th St. The show highlights works by the Rolls & Tubes Collective—Christy McDonald, Colleen Mullins, Jenny Sampson, and

Nicole White—artists who had fun during the pandemic parodying iconic images with the use of toilet paper.

Starting March 15 and continuing through mid-May, Chung 24 will exhibit “Touchstone,” photographs by Tony Bellaver, Mark Citret, Susannah Hays, Michael Starkman, and Cindy Stokes. The opening reception will be March 18, 2 to 5 p.m.

The gallery, owned and operated by fine art photographer Diane Chung, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Find out more at [Chung24gallery.com](http://Chung24gallery.com).

### Elysian Fields Forever

Elysian Fields, a popular rock band that often plays the European circuit, will hit the West Coast next month with a gig at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The New York-based group will perform Saturday, April 1, in the church’s stained-glass-filled upstairs concert hall. Tickets are \$20 for the 8 p.m. performance.

The band will showcase songs from its latest album, *Once Beautiful Twice Removed*, described as “an album to drive to, tracing invisible routes along with geographical ones, opening with a sermon in a small country chapel [and traveling to] many American places, and the stories that live there...”

Elysian Fields’ music is “hard to describe,” admits guitarist and bassist Oren Bloedow, who co-founded the group in 1995 with singer Jennifer Charles. “If I had to confine myself to three adjectives, I’d say intimate, soulful, and idiosyncratic, as opposed to aggressive, stony, and corporate.”

Bloedow and Charles are not strangers to San Francisco. Bloedow played the Noe Valley Ministry in 1993 with singer-guitarist Jeff Buckley. And Bloedow has played the Great American Music Hall, Yoshi’s, and The Fillmore. Charles’ local connections include working with hip-hop producer Dan the Automator and Mike Patton of the band Lovage.

For tickets, go to <https://www.venuepilot.co/events/68586/orders/new>

### Noe Valley Luminaries

Besides Word Weekend March 3–5, Folio Books is treating us to a trio of celebrity visits this month, two at the store and one at a mystery location known only to special guests.

Noe Valley cartoonist and author Judd Winick has been coaxed into doing a live reading on Saturday, March 18, at 5 p.m. If you pre-order his new *Hilo Book 9: Gina and the Last City on Earth*, you will receive two free seats to the party, plus the clues to its secret location. Publisher Random House Graphic says, “Prepare for a *Hilo* with more twists, more turns, more monsters, and more shocking surprises than ever before.” But don’t be alarmed. “Gina is ready to save the world, once and for all!”

On Tuesday, March 21, local mystery writer Cara Black will appear at Folio on 24th Street (3957 24th) to sign copies of her latest spy thriller, *Night Flight to Paris*, starring British secret agent Kate Rees. Black’s first book in the Rees series, *Three Hours in Paris*, was not only well received, it was a finalist for the 2020 Dashiell Hammett Prize. To sleuth out Black’s arrival time, call the store at 415-821-3477.

Finally, young-adult favorite Nina LaCour will be at the store Tuesday, March 28, 4 p.m., to read and sign her newest venture, *My Friend, Loonie*. The book is a comforting story about the loss of someone close. LaCour is



Oren Bloedow and Jennifer Charles of the band Elysian Fields will perform “noir rock” at the Noe Valley Ministry April 1.

known for such works. She wrote the best-selling *We Are Okay* and *Hold Still*, as well as the picture book *Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle!*

Reserve your spots and/or book your books online at [FolioSF.com](http://FolioSF.com).

P.S. Don’t forget the Odd Mondays series. It is celebrating International Women’s Day on Monday, March 13, with readings by authors Valerie Braylovskiy, Natasha Dennerstein, and Judith Serin. The gathering starts at 7 p.m. at Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. Find out more at [facebook.com/OddMondays](http://facebook.com/OddMondays).

### PBS to Show ‘Madman’

More than 50 years ago, an antiwar protest in San Francisco, matched by an even bigger one in Washington, D.C., was so powerful it may have stopped President Richard Nixon from a brutal escalation of an already disastrous war in Vietnam.

That’s the message of *The Movement and the “Madman,”* a 90-minute documentary produced and directed by Glen Park resident Stephen Talbot and airing nationally on Tuesday, March 28, on the PBS series *American Experience*.

“The film is about war and peace, the threat of nuclear war, and the power of protest,” says Talbot. “It takes place in 1969, but with Putin’s invasion of Ukraine and people wondering if they can really do anything to change the world, our story feels urgent and revealing.”

Talbot, who has produced more than 40 television documentaries, conducted 30 in-depth interviews with historians, peace activists, members of Congress, and former Nixon administration officials for the film, edited by Stephanie Mechura and executive-produced by Robert Levering.

*The Movement* offers lots of video clips from the era, including PBS coverage of Nov. 15, 1969, when 250,000 people gathered in Golden Gate Park, forming the largest protest in the western half of the country. As protesters marched, Nixon carried out bombing campaigns and even debated flying nuclear-armed B52s along Alaska’s border with Russia. But eventually he buckled under the pressure.

“At the time, protesters had no idea what they had prevented and how many lives they had saved,” Talbot said.

The film will be shown on KQED-TV at 9 p.m. It also can be streamed at [PBS.org](http://PBS.org). For more information, visit [www.movementandthemadman.com](http://www.movementandthemadman.com)

This month’s Short Takes were written by Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith, and Kathryn Guta.





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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Only Five Houses Sold in January

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley’s real estate market was in the doldrums in January. No doubt about it.

There were only five single-family detached homes sold in the neighborhood during the month, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

What's more, there were zero sales of condominiums, flats, or apartment buildings. The last time that happened was a decade ago, in January 2013.

“This kind of takes the cake,” said Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick. “It is highly unusual. I thought the data might be wrong.”

Kostick cited the usual suspects: anxiety over tech job layoffs, rising mort-



This 1923 home on Hoffman Avenue, remodeled two years ago, sold in January for \$3,902,500. It featured three bedrooms, four baths, and a custom kitchen with bespoke amenities. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

gage interest rates, a weak stock market, and the holiday slowdown. Weeks of rain probably didn’t help either.

Though sales were scant, there was one positive note. Four of the five homes, Kostick said, sold for more than

the sellers’ asking price.

And for a hillside home in the 400 block of Hoffman Avenue between 24th and 25th streets, there was great competition.

Buyers, paying \$3,902,500—11.7 percent more than the asking price (\$3,495,000)—beat out four rivals to land the stately Victorian.

“I was in shock,” said Lisa Thompson, broker-owner of Dwell Real Estate San Francisco, who listed the property.

“I thought it would sit [unsold] for 60 days or so. We ended up with five offers within seven days of its being on the market.”

Thompson, who lives on Vicksburg

Street, said the house was “a beautiful home” that had been renovated and enlarged in 2021 for the owner’s personal use.

“She spared no expense to remodel” the 1923 building and add a second-story addition, Thompson said, but sadly, the owner died shortly after moving back in.

The home featured three bedrooms and four bathrooms in 2,900 square feet of living space. Besides a Wolf range, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, marble countertops, and custom self-closing cabinetry, the house offered radiant heat, a gas fireplace, a media/family room, one-car parking with interior access, and views of neighboring hills. ■

### 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						
January 2023	5	\$1,080,000	\$3,902,500	\$2,247,500	69	104%
December 2022	9	\$1,625,000	\$3,350,000	\$2,492,778	40	107%
January 2022	5	\$1,970,000	\$4,425,000	\$3,012,300	80	110%
Condominiums/TICs						
January 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2022	1	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	56	97%
January 2022	4	\$880,000	\$2,001,000	\$1,587,750	45	102%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2022	3	\$1,850,000	\$4,266,500	\$2,748,833	121	98%
5+-unit buildings						
January 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 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 3/2023

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2023	Average February 2023	Average January 2023	Average February 2022
Studio	9	\$1,895 – \$2,650	\$2,185 / mo.	\$2,246 / mo.	\$2,051 / mo.
1-bdrm	55	\$1,695 – \$6,000	\$3,022 / mo.	\$3,100 / mo.	\$2,842 / mo.
2-bdrm	52	\$2,950 – \$7,800	\$4,067 / mo.	\$4,174 / mo.	\$3,904 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$3,800 – \$11,855	\$6,343 / mo.	\$5,667 / mo.	\$5,823 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$4,500 – \$18,500	\$9,410 / mo.	\$8,476 / mo.	\$8,719 / mo.


\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 146 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 16 to Feb. 9, 2023. In February 2022, there were 109 listings. NVV3/2023



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**Recap of Parts I and II:** *Cashless Frodough left Happy Donuts with a full belly and a mission. To thank Grand Al for his gift of a donut, Frodough promised to take another donut to the wizard mechanic's brother at the top of Twin Peaks. Grand Al warned the journey would be difficult and that donuts held a mysterious power over men. Frodough successfully navigated the sidewalks of 24th Street, avoiding a stroller traffic jam, answering the Elders' riddle at Bernie's Bench, and fending off a tech-bro-induced nap with his magic Airpods. But before he was clear of Downtown Noe Valley, he was confronted again by Smeagle the Beagle near Noe Courts.*

It didn't take long for Smeagle and Frodough to exhaust. Frodough was panting like a dog. Smeagle, not far behind, panted like Frodough. Cars lining the steep hill had their wheels turned sharply to the curb, and e-brakes pulled tightly, with all the strength their drivers could muster. Frodough's run quickly turned to a walk, which turned to a crawl. Smeagle didn't fare any better, and after a few minutes of pursuit, the hapless creature turned back to the park. Frodough continued trudging uphill.

After another two blocks, the hill had flattened. A street sign read: Grand View Avenue. Frodough stopped to catch his breath. He looked back down the hill to see how far he'd come. Then he looked ahead, toward Twin Peaks. Fog rolled across the mountain's face, and Sutron's tower loomed on the horizon. His courage waned. He knew the last part of the journey would be the toughest. The donut felt heavy around his neck.

With a thunderous roar, four dark figures descended the hill, racing toward him. Polyurethane wheels scraped the pavement, making a horrifying rattling noise. Frodough cowered and covered his ears. Suddenly, he was surrounded by skateboarders!

"The little man has a donut."  
"Gimme that donut."  
"Grab it!"

Frodough clutched his donut tightly and spun in circles trying to avoid the skaters' outstretched hands. He turned, they turned, the world began to spin. A fog thickened around them. Frodough's legs wiggled and he felt weak and off balance. Right before he blacked out, he heard a new voice, "Scram!" He fell not onto the hard asphalt, but into someone's soft arms.

Frodough woke to the warmth of a crackling fire. He was not inside, but also not outside. He heard cars passing overhead and saw he was surrounded by debris and clutter. A man sat across from him.

"That was a close call. Those kids almost got ya."

"Who are you? Where am I?"  
Frodough replied hazily.

"And I thought I was foggy. The name's Karl. I wheeled you here in my shopping cart. Welcome to my home. It's not much, but Market Street keeps the rain off, and the bushes along the fence block the wind."

Frodough felt for the donut around his neck. It was gone! He stood up quickly and pointed at Karl.

"Where is my donut? You thief!"

Karl laughed. "First of all, I'm gluten-free. Secondly, I don't care for sweets. The donut is hung safely over there. You were tossing and turning in your sleep, and I didn't want you to smooch it. Some strange dreams you were having. You kept muttering about *the one pastry to rule them all*. Say, what's the deal with that donut anyway? Why are

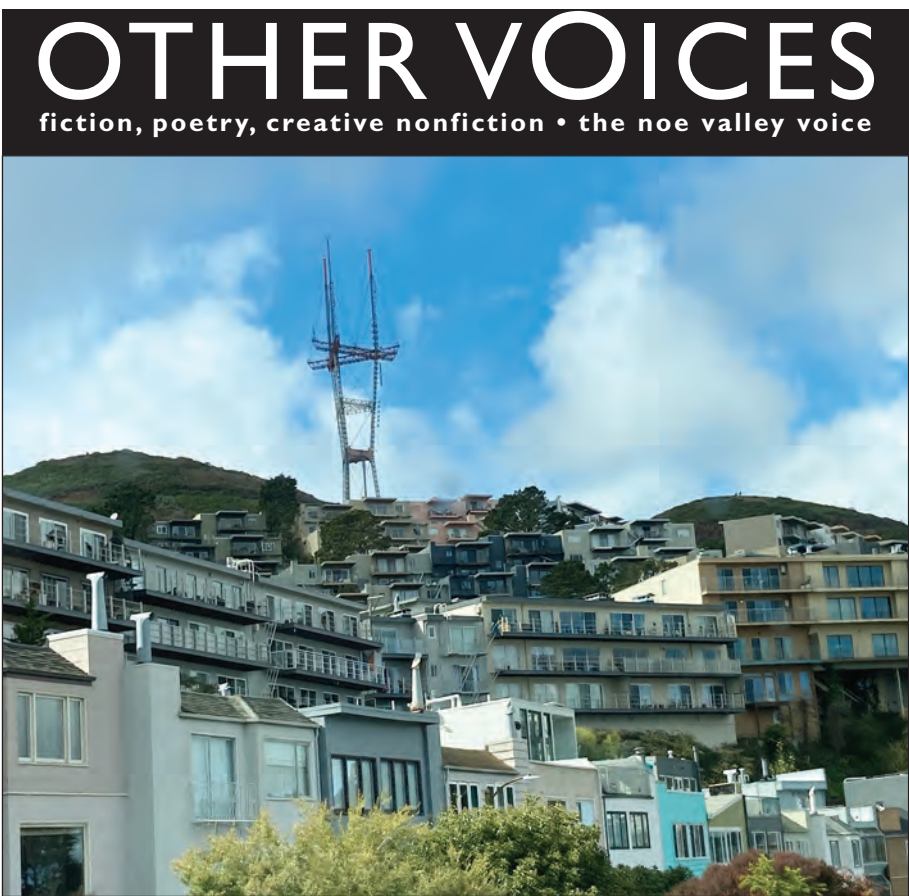


Photo by Jack Tipple

# OTHER VOICES

fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction • the noe valley voice

## The Lord of the Dough

### Part III: The Return of the Pastry

By Elliot Carlson

you wearing it around your neck?"  
"Please forgive me, Karl. I shouldn't have assumed you wanted it. You see, this donut is a burden. It has a power over me. I must take it to the top of Twin Peaks, as repayment for the one I had earlier."

"Seems silly, all that for a donut. You must be hungry coming all the way up here. Why don't you just eat it now?"

Emotion and doubt choked Frodough. Tears gathered in the nooks of his eyes, and he replied, "Grand Al trusted me. Yeah, it may seem stupid. But he did something nice for me. And I intend to repay that kindness. I gave my word. In this day and age, that may not mean much, but it still means something to me." Pride entered: "I may not look like much to you, but I made a promise, and I will try my hardest to keep it."

"All right, all right, I get it. No need to get all worked up. I can respect that. It's not really my style, you see. I like to come and go. In and out. Down the hill for the day, then back up here in the evenings." Karl rambled on, "I prefer the summer, of course. And usually stay on the other side of the hill. Oceanside! I love sitting in front of the Sunset. Anyway...you are a good guy, Frodough. Here..." He grabbed the donut and placed it around Frodough's neck. "You'd better get going. The path from here is still long and treacherous. Have some water before you go."

Frodough set out again. He left the encampment and shortly came to a spiral ramp. He circled it and crossed the overpass to the other side of Market Street. Never having been there before, he wasn't exactly sure where to go. He noticed a street sign, "Vista Lane," and decided to follow it. The streets were now mostly flat terraces circling the hill, linked by sets of stairs. He climbed the first. Then the next. Then the next. His legs ached. The icy wind chilled his sweat, freezing him to the core. Now on his fourth staircase, he felt each step was a challenge. Sure, he was out of shape, but this was a hard climb even for the most experienced Stair Master. The donut weighed him down.

He stopped mid-flight. *I can't*, he thought. His body hurt. He was cold, tired, and heavy.

He heard a voice in the wind. "Crafted in the mountains of Patagonia, as warm as wool yet as light as a feather." He remembered the silver jacket tied around his waist. As soon as he put it on, the warmth returned to his body. He even felt lighter. As light as a feather! He got up and took a step, then another. He flew up the remaining stairs.

After the last staircase, only the bare hillside lined with a small hiking trail remained to the summit. Frodough began the final climb. Sutron's tower was close now. Upon its crux, the twin donut, surrounded by fire and flames, glared at him. He kept his head down, avoiding visual contact, but the eye burned just as brightly in his mind. The lift from the jacket seemed to diminish the closer he got to the top, and his steps became labored again. He was thirsty, his feet hurt, loose dirt flung up from the wind and stung his eyes. The gale was so strong now it nearly blew him from the path. Fog obscured his vision. He couldn't see more than a few feet. He wound up the path for what seemed an eternity until he finally reached a road. He heard voices, he saw parked cars and people. He had made it to the top!

Carefully avoiding shards of broken glass, Frodough walked through the parking lot looking for Grand Al's brother. A strange smoke coming from car windows seemed to make him hungrier. He found a place to sit. He assumed Grand Al's brother wasn't there yet, so he sat and stared at his donut and thought, *All this, for a pastry. I can't believe I carried it all the way here. I'm so hungry now, and it's my favorite, chocolate and sprinkles. It looks so good. I really deserve it. It's mine. It's my Precious.*

He heard a growl from behind him. Smeagle the Beagle, the gruff and grizzled dog, trotted over. His owner must have driven to the top for a view. Off leash now, Smeagle stared intently at the donut.

"Back!" Frodough yelled. "It's mine." The dog lunged. It ripped the donut from Frodough's neck and held it by the string in its mouth. Frodough lunged back. They began to wrestle for the donut dangerously close to the edge of the hill.

The dog's owner, after noticing the commotion, hurried over with leash in hand.

"Give it back!" yelled Frodough. He got hold of it for a second, then the dog wrestled it free again. It flew up in the air and over the cliff. The dog jumped after it.

Frodough gasped, "My Precious!" The dog's owner gasped, "My Precious!"

They ran to the edge and looked down. The dog was safely below on a lower outcropping. The donut, though, was rolling end over end down the hill.

Frodough felt a hand on his back. He turned and saw Grand Al.

"Hello there, little dude. I can't believe you made it. Too bad about that donut."

"It's you. Where's your brother? I am so sorry, Grand Al, I lost it. I was so close."

"You see, Frodough, my brother was never coming. This was a test. It was not about the donut or the cash. It was about you. It was about you conquering your fears and taking control of your life. Look at what you accomplished today. You did it, Frodough! You climbed Twin Peaks! You conquered the donut."

Frodough laughed. "I guess you are right. That was quite the adventure."

"Anyway, I was late because I was picking up these bad boys." Grand Al pulled out a pair of hefty burritos and handed one to Frodough. They called Smeagle over, petted him, and fed him some chips. They sat and ate.

The fog began to clear, and a spectacular view of San Francisco appeared below. To the west, they saw the ocean, to the north the Golden Gate Bridge. Across the beautiful water of the bay, they saw Oakland and even farther away Mount Diablo.

But Frodough's eyes kept coming back to Noe Valley. His favorite neighborhood glimmered in the sun and shone back on him.

#### EPILOGUE

Karl sat singing and laughing by his fire. An object rolled in front of him and stopped. He reached down to pick it up. The donut gathered no dirt and looked as good as the day it came out of the donut shop. He laughed, "Well, isn't that Precious? I really shouldn't, but..."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Elliot Carlson** is a fiber optic network engineer who was inspired to write this story after reading *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy last year. He celebrated the completion of his trilogy with a donut and a climb up Twin Peaks. He would love to hear any feedback on the story and can be reached at [Elliot.Carlson@yahoo.com](mailto:Elliot.Carlson@yahoo.com).

**The Noe Valley Voice** invites you to submit fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication in *Other Voices*. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com) or write *Other Voices*, Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name and contact information.



What’s in 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 [sffdnext@sfgov.org](mailto:sffdnext@sfgov.org) or [www.sfgov.org/sfnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sfnert).



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

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

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



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

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



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

**Hygiene:** Hand 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

UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



SF Youth Baseball League’s Hot Shots get some pre-season practice. Photo by Chris Faust

Swinging Into Spring

Baseball season is here again, and the field at Upper Noe Rec is green and inviting. Passersby on 30th Street will enjoy a knothole view during week-day afternoon practice and games all day on Saturday. The action can be quite thrilling and the price is right.

While you’re at the park, take a class, such as zumba, pickleball, or tennis, if you’re lucky. **Spring Session** runs March 21 through May 26. Registration begins **March 4** at 10 a.m. Visit [www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com) or call the office at **415-970-8061** for the latest information.

Are you worried about deteriorating playground structures and surfaces? Do you want see faster fixes? The most effective way to improve park conditions is to contact 311, either by phone, web, or the super-easy-to-use phone app. Park personnel rely on your 311 reports to support service requests. Help them keep the park healthy and clean.

Upper Noe Rec, at 295 Day St., covers nearly a city block, and is bounded by Sanchez, Day, and 30th streets. See you at the next game.

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Spring Schedule (March 21 to May 26, 2023)

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

A Place to Play (free play)

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

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)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis–Beginning (8-9 yrs)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis–Intermediate (18+)  
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)  
12 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)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis (18+)

Thursday

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (3-5 yrs)

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4 to 5 p.m. Karate- Little Kickers (6-8 yrs)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis–Beginning (8-9 yrs)  
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kids (9-12 yrs)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis–Intermediate (18+)

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)  
4 to 5 p.m. League Volleyball (8-10 yrs)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis–Beginning (7-8 yrs)  
5 to 6 p.m. League Volleyball (11-14 yrs)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis–Beginning (9-10 yrs)  
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Play Sports (14-18 yrs) Instructional Volleyball

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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May 6 LAURA DERN  
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May 9 JOHN WATERS

May 11 ABRAHAM VERGHESE

May 16 TOM HANKS

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May 19 ANDY COHEN

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# STORE TREK

*Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, spotlighting new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month we introduce a business that wants to boost your creativity.*

**KMH TOYS**  
4207 24th St., Suite B  
415-213-2571  
Havisham@kmhtoys.com  
<https://www.kmhtoys.com/>

KMH Toys is a bit of a misnomer for the new business that opened on Christmas day at 4207 24th St., above Diamond Street. While there are a few toy items for purchase, what is really being sold is the concept of communal play.

Owner Chiare Hwang and her partner, Nicholas Heidt, aim to sell prospective customers, whether they are schoolchildren or adults, on the joy and camaraderie they can find in building toys with others in a public setting. They have branded the store a “playhouse for bricks and blocks.”

“It is kind of a new idea and a new business model,” said Hwang, 36, a native San Franciscan who says she as a child used to take shopping trips with her mom to Noe Valley.

Heidt, 34, assists Hwang with the day-to-day operations. The business is named after the couple’s son, Kai Matthew Heidt, who was born last summer.

Most people assume the store is a traditional toy shop, as did a couple who live across the street and popped in to say hello the Saturday in early February when the *Voice* stopped by.

“We are more experiential retail. We don’t just sell you something,” explained Hwang. “We are waiting to see how people take that in and respond to it.”

At less than 600 square feet, the retail space that formerly housed a jeweler’s studio is roughly the size of a studio apartment. The couple estimate they can comfortably accommodate 10 adults or 12 youth at a time.

There is a large table in the middle of the space, where customers build with the Legos or blocks the shop provides. Each month, they plan to rotate in different sets for people to use. Examples of the shop’s finished builds line up on a shelf under the store’s front window.

Some of the creations have motorized components. Last month, there was a set on display with a mariachi



Chiare Hwang and baby Kai survey some of the building blocks for their new playhouse on 24th Street, KMH Toys.  
Photo by Art Bodner

band musician and a cactus playing guitars.

An hour of play costs \$15 per person. You can also buy family day passes, priced at \$250 for five passes or \$450 for 10. Each pass is good for up to four people per day.

Customers are welcome to store their unfinished builds at the shop and return another time to finish them. On the business’ website, Heidt has been blogging about each set after it’s built.

“The store is promoting group play, too, and personal interactions,” Heidt said.

Each month, there will be a featured product for sale. Currently, it is the Blockitecture sets, ranging in price from \$30 to \$175.

“The idea really is for people to come to the store and build something,” explained Hwang. “I see the store as promoting an interest in a combination of design, architecture, and mechanics.”

Hwang and Heidt estimate they have 40 pounds of Lego bricks at the store. One basket alone contains 3,000 pieces needed to make a treehouse. Even more Lego sets are stored at their home.

“Our house right now is just crammed with boxes,” said Hwang.

The couple live in the Richmond district. Heidt relocated to San Francisco from Michigan a year and a half ago.

They met in 2010 while attending a music school in Los Angeles and performing in a Journey cover band. Hwang plays the drums and Heidt the guitar.

Friends back then, they kept in touch

said Heidt, who had their son nestled in a baby carrier on his chest. “I sold my house and moved here for good.”

As a child, Hwang had been enamored with Grimm’s Blocks, but her family couldn’t afford the fancy handcrafted toys. As an adult, she decided to indulge herself, especially during health quarantines.

“For me, this was my guilty pleasure. One day I just bought them to build with, more from an art perspective,” said Hwang, whose first purchase was an Arabian Nights kit. “I ended up with 10 different sets. We were building castles in our living room as tall as our chests.”

The joy she experienced sparked the idea for the business. It has been a slow start, however, as the couple are fine-tuning the concept while getting the

word out about the KMH play space.

They are open to suggestions and convinced their new business will be a viable endeavor. Hwang pointed to the enchantment on the faces of children peering in their storefront window.

“I didn’t see that coming,” said Hwang. “I hope people come in and meet each other. There is one table for a reason.”

KMH Toys accepts reservations via its website, [KMhtoys.com](http://KMhtoys.com), and can be booked for private events or parties. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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**March 1 & 4:** SF Rec and Park offers class REGISTRATION for seniors on March 1, 10 am at 6101 Fulton and online, and regular registration on March 4, 10 am. 628-652-2900; sfrecpark.org/register

**March 1-12:** Noe Valley resident Nancy Reese shows PAINTINGS at Gallery Sanchez. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Appointments at reeseartsf@gmail.com.

**March 1-29:** Lola Gallery displays “All Sunsets,” PHOTOGRAPHS by Robert Ogilvie. Tues.-Sat., noon-6 pm, and by appointment. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

**March 1-31:** The Glen Park Library holds a reception March 1 for “Glen Park WOMEN Hall of Fame,” a month-long exhibit by Evelyn Rose honoring 21 local residents. 6-8 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

**March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The Noe Valley Library offers Children’s STORYTIMES on Thursdays, 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 3:** WORD WEEKEND features authors Karen Joy Fowler and Katie Hafner in conversation, 7 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. Foliosf.com, 821-3477.

**March 3:** Blues guitarist and singer David Jacobs-Strain and harmonica player Bob Beach perform a concert at 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at the Noe Valley Ministry. 454-5238; brownpapertickets.com/event/5710283

**March 4:** Ying Chang Compestine reads from her adult and children’s books and gives a multimedia presentation, at WORD WEEKEND. 4 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. Foliosf.com, 821-3477.

**March 4:** Vocal ensemble CLERESTORY performs “Phoenix Rising” at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. clerestory.org

**March 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Music at the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET includes Dave Kesler at 9 am, and the Probabilities at 11 am, March 4; the Out of Town Couple, 9 am, and Max Williams, 11 am, March 11; Dan Roth and his B Street Eklektiks, 9 am, and Indi Faulkner, 11 am, on March 18; and duo Jeanie and Chuck, 11 am on March 25. Market hours are 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**March 4-25:** NOE WALKS strolls around

MARCH CALENDAR

the neighborhood on Saturdays, starting at 10 am at 24th and Sanchez.

**March 5:** ACTION SF holds a virtual meeting open to all, noon to 1 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

**March 5:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAY at the Noe Valley Town Square features Vancouver, Canada, singer/songwriter Terence Jack. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**March 5:** A WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley points out the history of the ‘hood. Meet 2 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 5:** “AGES: Poetry and Song Across Generations,” curated by poet Susan Dambroff, wraps up Word Weekend 2023, 5 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 821-3477.

**March 5 & 26:** Folk hosts a free YOGA CLASS; bring your own mat. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. www.yogagar-densf.com or noevalleytownsquare.com

**March 6-11:** The ninth annual URBAN FILM Fest screens at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th, and various venues around the city. Check out sfurbanfilmfest.com

**March 6, 15, 18 & 25:** Three chefs discuss their books: Iliana Regan (*Fieldwork: A Forager’s Memoir*) 6:30 pm, March 6; Katie Parla (*Food of the Italian Islands*) 6:30 pm, March 15; Gesine Bullock-Prado (*My Vermont Table*) 3 pm, March 18; and Abi Balingit (*Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed*) 3 pm, March 25. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**March 6-April 3:** Art Haus exhibits a group show, “WOMEN Painting Women.” Reception March 11, 1-4 pm. 3977 24th. 590-2315; arthausf.com

**March 7:** The Noe Valley Library offers drop-in TECH HELP. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 9:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**March 10:** FRIDAY MATINEE at the Noe Valley Library screens the 1978 indie come-

dy *Girlfriends*. 2-3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 10:** A District 8 Public Safety TOWN HALL, led by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, hosts D.A. Brooke Jenkins, SFPD Chief Bill Scott, and representatives from SF SAFE. 5:30-7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. uppernoeneighbors.com

**March 11:** Janell Pekkain from Olive This Olive That invites you to an OLIVE OIL tasting. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 12:** The World Literature BOOK CLUB at the Noe Valley Library discusses *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 12:** Music on the Hill hosts a CONCERT by the Gaude vocal ensemble. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine. 285-9540; musiconthehill.org

**March 13:** ODD MONDAYS celebrates International WOMEN’S DAY with readings by Valerie Braylovskiy, Natasha Dennerstein, and Judith Serin. 7-8 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. facebook.com/OddMondays

**March 14:** The SF HISTORICAL Society hosts John Freeman’s program, “How Dry I Ain’t: The Story of How San Francisco Outwitted National Prohibition Rules and Prospered.” 6:30 pm. SFHS Museum, 608 Commercial. Reserve a spot at sfhistory.org

**March 15:** Upper Noe Neighbors offers an in-person COMMUNITY meeting to discuss new officers and proposed construction along the J-Church line and Slow Sanchez; refreshments served. 7-8:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. upper-noeneighbors.com

**March 15:** The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 15-May 13:** Chung 24 Gallery displays “Touchstone,” featuring work by Tony Bellaver, Mark Citret, Susannah Hays, Michael Starkman, and Cindy Stokes. Wed.-Sat., 1-6 pm. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

**March 18:** Noe Valley author JUDD WINICK reads from his graphic novel *Hilo Book 9: Gina and the Last City on Earth*. 5 pm. Call for location: 821-3477.

**March 18:** Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**March 19:** LEGO Free Play at the Noe Valley Library welcomes children, ages 5 and older, and their families. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**March 21:** Noe mystery writer CARA BLACK signs copies of her latest books at Folio, 3957 24th. Call 821-3477 for time.

**March 26:** NOE MUSIC hosts its 30th Anniversary Concert, featuring Erich Korngold’s *Sextet Op. 10*. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

**March 25:** SHAKESPEARE on Tour performs *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. 2-3:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

**March 28:** Nina LaCour signs copies of her young adult book *My Friend Loonie*. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477.

**March 28:** KQED TV debuts the documentary *The Movement and the “Madman,”* a film about the impact of San Francisco’s ANTI-WAR protests, directed by Glen Park resident Stephen Talbot for the PBS series *American Experience*. 9 pm. PBS.org

**March 28:** The SF HISTORY Association hosts Reino Niemala Jr. and Nicole Meldahl discussing “Art and Design at Playland-at-the-Beach.” 7 pm. Sherith Israel, 2266 California. sanfranciscohistory.org

**April 1:** Brooklyn-based “noir rock” group Elysian Fields performs a CONCERT at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

Springing Forward

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



and now for the  
RUMORS  
behind the news

My Gripes of Wrath

By Mazook

LIES IN THE OINTMENT: There are many things to grouse about these days, even here in happy Noe Valley, so I will try to be brief.

My first gripe, and it has been my grievance since 2016, is that there is still no bathroom at the Noe Valley Town Square. And when I read Matthew Bajko’s front-page story in the February *Voice*, my gripe became even louder.

As I first reported in the Rumors column in October, Assemblymember Matt Haney was ready to announce state funding to finally install the loo in the square, which had been plumbed in 2016 when the park first opened. I was shocked to learn the cost for the potty installation would be \$1.7 million, so I brought my misgivings to a press conference Haney had scheduled at noon Oct. 19 at the square.

The press conference was cancelled after *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Heather Knight wrote about the issue in that morning’s paper. By the end of the day, the story went round the world. Even Haney’s brother read about the toilet’s price tag in Ireland.

Well, according to the *Voice* story, the Town Square will be getting a toilet, a prefabricated one donated by a Nevada manufacturer. And it should be installed by summer’s end. The cost of the project has been reduced to just under a million dollars. That’s good.

Wait!! A million dollars?! Yes, the bulk of the cost is in “project management,” whatever that means.

Well, the story keeps on spinning. Last month, Bill Maher talked about it on his HBO show *Real Time*, and amid his razzing he called San Francisco “the poop capital of the world.”

Geez, for a city “that knows how,” we sure know how to spend money.

No. 2 on my list of gripes is the two-hour limit for parking on our residential streets from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, without a special permit. I can’t invite friends to my house for the afternoon so we can have lunch and go shopping in Downtown Noe Valley. It’s worse for people who reside in the 24th Street commercial zone. They can’t get a permit at all.

Why doesn’t the SFMTA at least sell a Day Permit? Oops, I just googled and they say they do.

Third on my list of beefs is the conduct of drivers in DNV, mostly due to the total lack of enforcement of the 20-mile-an-hour speed limit, on 24th Street from Diamond to Church. Also I’m tired of the double-parkers, and all those drivers who do U-turns in the middle of the block.

Plaint No. 4: Why does Whole Foods charge 25¢ for each paper bag used? California law says stores must charge at least 10 cents a bag. It’s legal to charge more. The fee is to ensure that the cost of providing grocery bags is not subsidized by the customers who bring their own bags or don’t need bags. Okay, I get it. But 25¢ is outrageous at our Whole Foods. Yeah, I know: Bring your own bag.

My fifth gripe is the prolonged dog-barking I must endure when I meet with friends at the parklet in front of Martha’s Coffee across from the Town Square on weekend mornings. Gimme a break!

And then, No. 6, I have a gripe with Starbucks at 24th and Noe. Workers there need a raise. In early February, pro-union activists from Starbucks Workers United

were out in front handing out leaflets asking passersby to complain to the company about long waits for service due to worker layoffs. The flyer asked rhetorically, “Why is my order taking so long?” and gave the answer: employee cutbacks. The group, which is working actively to unionize stores around the country, asked customers to take the pledge: “No Contract No Coffee” by going to <https://tinyurl.com/SBWUPledge>.

I’m not finished yet. Kvetch No. 7 is with Wells Fargo Bank. Noe Valley resident China Brotsky and others are planning to hold a protest at Wells Fargo Bank in Noe in March, says local activist and *Voice* friend Karen Topakian (she served as board chair for Greenpeace from 2010 to 2018). The protest is to get the bank to stop financing fossil fuel extraction (fracking).

No. 8 is my gripe with Bank of America for opening at 10 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m. on weekdays. I work and have trouble meeting the deadline to visit a teller to make a deposit or cash a check. And like Wells Fargo, B of A is closed on Saturdays. All the other banks in Noe Valley open at 9 a.m. and stay open till 5 p.m.

And finally, to avoid going to double digits (and believe me I could), complaint No. 9 is that the building owner at 3893 24th has not been able to find a new tenant for the empty 24th Street Cheese Co. space. Rumor was an Italian delicatessen might rent the space, but that was a no-go.

What’s your gripe? Send a letter to the editor@noevalleyvoice.com.



FARM TO TABLE: The Noe Valley Farmers Market has been somewhat slow these past months. Fruits and vegetables have been limited, but the vernal equinox will be here Monday, March 20, and greens should become more plentiful soon.

Kou Her [yes it’s Her] of Herr Farms says, “We started planting in February for our spring crop and expect by late March and early April we will harvest our choy family [bok choy and yu choy], baby greens, cucumbers, zucchini, basil, cilantro, watermelons, corn, and tomatoes.”

The 12-acre Herr Farms is located near Fresno in Sanger, Calif., and is farmed by eight members in the family. Kou’s father, Ge Herr, signed up with the Noe Valley Farmers Market when it first opened 20 years ago, and Kou took over management four years ago. “It is just our family. We have no employees,” says Kou, “and most of our crop is dedicated to the Noe Valley Farmers Market on Saturdays and the rest to a farmers market in the Outer Sunset on Sundays.”

According to Kou, “The challenge these past two months has been too much water. Because it rained so much, we couldn’t get on the fields, which delayed our soil preparation, but now we are finally caught up with our plantings.” He says it is very hard work but they all like what they do and are self-sufficient. “For me it is a labor of love.”

A recent addition to the Noe Farmers Market is Holy Crunch bakery, which specializes in the Turkish pastry börek, which is made by layering filo dough with a mix of feta cheese, leek, and spinach, and sometimes carrots. Other popular fillings include minced meat, potato, or just plain spinach. It too is a labor of love by Chef Liam Shemi.

“Everything is hand-done from start to finish,” says Shemi, “including making the dough and stretching it into a very thin layer and then adding fresh vegetable fillings.” He says he was inspired by his dad, who taught him the craft as a boy in Turkey.

By the way, Farmers Market manager Elizabeth Crane is searching for interns to hire from local high schools. She says the market will pay the city’s minimum wage for eight hours of work (6 a.m. to

2 p.m.) on Saturdays. That’s currently \$16.99 per hour, and on July 1, 2023, it will go up to \$18.07/hour.

Crane notes, “They will learn handling money, doing the paperwork, and dealing with customers in a retail situation, as well as helping to set up the market, clean up after it closes, and be able to fill in to help the farmers during the market’s hours.”



AND THE BEAT GOES ON at the Town Square on Saturday mornings, with live music booked by music director and master of ceremonies Gil Guillermo. On March 4, at 9 a.m., solo guitarist, vocalist, and Noe Valley resident Dave Kesler will perform. Kesler has a day job as an architect. At 11 that morning, the Probabilities will play some old-time fiddle tunes with a violinist flanked by banjo and a cello player.

The following week, March 11, the Out of Town Couple will give us some blues, swing, and Americana sounds at 9 a.m., and then solo jazz guitarist Max Williams will play at 11. On March 18, 9 a.m., Dan Roth and his B Street Eklektik band will play pop, rock, and r&b standards, followed at 11 a.m. by teen pop and jazz vocalist Indi Faulkner. On March 25, the 9 a.m. show is tba, and booked at the 11th hour is an American songbook duo Jeanie and Chuck.

Guillermo says, “We are trying to promote young people in our programs, like Ariana King, who sang last Saturday [Feb. 25], to the delight of the many who were there. Ariana, who is 8 years old and attends Sunnyside Elementary School, also sang at the Town Square’s Christmas tree lighting in December.



SHORT SHRIFTS: I asked Jan Null, a meteorologist with Golden Gate Weather

Services, why, during the Bay Area snowstorms at the end of February, no snow fell on Twin Peaks (922 feet above Noe). Null replied, “There are two reasons. First, Twin Peaks is not high enough for the snow that fell, and secondly, Twin Peaks is too close to the Pacific Ocean. It is about 10 degrees warmer at Ocean Beach than in Downtown San Francisco.” Well, there’s always Mount Diablo.

Bistro Ember, a Burmese restaurant, is applying for a beer and wine license, at 1298 Church at 25th. ... Still up in the air is when a new restaurant called Memento at 1305 Castro St. (the former Bistro SF Grill) will open. The sign in front optimistically said, “Stay tuned for opening on Jan. 23.” ... Notices went up on the front window of the large space that used to be Ambiance (3979 24th) seeking a permit to open chiropractic offices ...

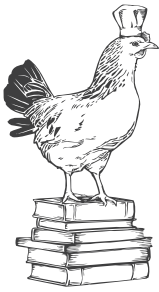
Chelsea Davis of SFGate.com wrote a Feb. 7 story about the neighborhood titled, “Why you should spend the day in San Francisco’s Noe Valley.” Why? Because, the next line read, “the charming neighborhood is a little haven in the middle of a big city.”

The question I am most asked when I pound the pavement in Downtown Noe Valley is “When is the pot store on 24th and Vicksburg going to open?” I wrote in Rumors last year that it would be around the end of September 2022. My answer now is simply: “I don’t know.”



THAT’S ALL I KNOW FOR NOW, folks. Have a happy St. Patrick’s Day and make sure you walk or run (no faster than 20 mph) to either the Valley Tavern, the Peaks, or the Dubliner, and take a Lyft, Uber, bus, or taxi back home, so you don’t have to crawl after having one too many Irish coffees. ■

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MARCH EVENTS

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WED  
MAR  
15

KATIE PARLA • FOOD OF THE ITALIAN ISLANDS • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Venture through the streets of Palermo, across the caper fields of volcanic Pantelleria, into the kitchens of Sardinia, to the pristine waters of Ponza, and finish up with a jaunt through the Venetian lagoon on Katie’s own finshing boat, Laura.

SAT  
MAR  
18

GESINE BULLOCK-PRADO • MY VERMONT TABLE: RECIPES FOR ALL (SIX) SEASONS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! 100+ recipes and stories from celebrated pastry chef Gesine Bullock-Prado, featuring quintessential Vermont flavors, updated with ingredients and spices from Bullock-Prado’s own backyard.

SAT  
MAR  
25

ABI BALINGIT • MAYUMU: FILIPINO AMERICAN DESSERTS REMIXED • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Abi shares some of the cult-favorite dessert recipes she developed while producing hundreds of “pasalubong” (souvenir) boxes during the pandemic - featuring inventive flavor combinations and classic Filipino favorites.

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CHILDREN’S FICTION

In the picture book *Run!* by Guilherme Karsten, animals play a game of “jungle hide-and-seek.” Ages 3-6.

Children learn how to dance *The Nutcracker* in *Ballet Kids* by Holly Sterling. Ages 3-7.

*How to Help a Friend*, written in rhyming couplets by Karl Newsom and illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi, discusses the ways we can help each other. Ages 3-7.

A family prepares for a Lunar New Year party in *Tray of Togetherness* by Flo Leung. Ages 3-7.

In *Parker Grows a Garden* by Parker Curry and Jessica Curry, with illustrations by Brittany Jackson and Tajae Keith, a girl helps her grandmothers tend a backyard garden. Ages 4-6.

Two animals go on an adventure to the ocean, in *Tiny Fox and Great Boar: Furthest*, book two in a series by Berenika Kolomycka. Ages 6-10.

*Anne: An Adaptation of Anne of Green Gables (Sort Of)* by Kathleen Gros, is a graphic novel retelling of the classic tale. Ages 8-12.

*Sweet Valley Twins: Best Friends*, by Nicole Andelfinger and Claudia Aguirre, is based on a novel by Francine Pascal. Ages 8-12.

Katherine Marsh’s *The Lost Year: A Survival Story* reveals what happened in the Holodomor, a famine in the Ukraine of the 1930s. Ages 10-14.

CHILDREN’S NONFICTION

Emily Hughes tells the story of Japanese American sculptor Isamu Noguchi in *The Snail*. Ages 5-8.

Author Kwame Alexander and illustrator Dare Coulter depict the truth about slavery in *An American Story*. Ages 6-10.

*Foldout Anatomy: An Interactive Look Inside Humans and Animals*, by Jana Albrechtová and Radka Piro, with illustrations by Lida Larina, looks at the similarities and differences among various living creatures. Ages 7-10.

*Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life* is a memoir by Caldecott Award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney. Ages 8-12.

Author Justin Baldoni offers personal confessions and ego-boosting activities in *Boys Will Be Human: A Get-Real Gut-Check Guide to Becoming the Strongest, Kindest, Bravest Person You Can Be* by Justin Baldoni. Ages 10-14.

CHILDREN’S EBOOKS

Three siblings go on a night adventure in the rhyming picture book *Dark on Light* by Dianne White, with illustrations by Felicita Salae. Ages 3-8.

The sixth in the Princess Truly series, *I Am Mighty*, by Kelly Greenawalt with illustrations by Amariah Rauschera, is about a girl who uses strength and determination to win a prize. Ages 4-6.

*Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better* is a biography of “the father of ice cream,” by Glenda Armand, with illustrations by Kim Freeman. Ages 4-8.

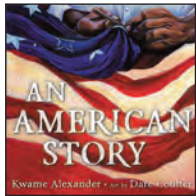
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Spicing It Up by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Marching Along



telling how to be a good, strong, kind person; a foldout anatomy book comparing us humans to animals; and a book that yells *Run!* and surprises you when you find out what you’re running from.

For adults, there are essays by Irish writer and critic Colm Tóibín, a new biography of the literary outlaw Kathy Acker, and a humorous work of fiction about a woman accused of being a “self-made” widow by others in her small Indian village.

Children, teens, and adults all can learn from *An American Story*, the movingly illustrated book on the history and legacy of slavery in this country.

DVDs abound, including *Till*, about the tragic death of Emmett Till; a foodie horror satire called *The Menu*; and *The Fabelmans*, a drama reflecting the childhood of its director, Steven Spielberg.

Go to sfpl.org to reserve your choices for pickup or digital borrowing at Noe Valley or at any other branches around the city. If you need help, call the Noe Valley Library at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org.

Your local librarians welcome a visit—take a stroll to 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets.

Branch hours are Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Masks are recommended but not required.



*To Boldly Go: How Nichelle Nichols and Star Trek Helped Advance Civil Rights* is a biography of the actress who played Lieutenant Uhura, by Angela Dalton with illustrations by Lauren Semmer. Ages 4-8.

A crime-fighting crab and his starfish partner solve mysteries on the deep in the graphic novel *Officer Clawsome: Lobster Cop*, by Brian “Smitty” Smith, illustrated by Chris Giarrusso. Ages 8-12.

ADULT FICTION

*The Book of Everlasting Things* by Aanchal Mahotra is about a love affair between a Hindu performer and a Muslim calligrapher in 1938 India.

In *The Light Pirate*, by Lily Brooks-Dalton, a birth takes place during a catastrophic Florida hurricane.

A woman knows her friends falsely think she has murdered her missing husband because now they are asking for her help in killing theirs, in *Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff.

*The Faraway World* is *Vida* author Patricia Engel’s collection of 10 short stories set across the Americas.

*This Other Eden* by Paul Harding centers on several generations of families living on Malaga Island, first settled by black free and former slaves and white fishermen off the coast of Maine in the 1860s.

ADULT NONFICTION

Irene Vallejo’s *Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World* traces the history of shared communication from spoken word to scrolls to books.

Douglas Brinkley’s *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening* chronicles the rise of environmental activism 1960 to 1973.

London-based chef Farokh Talati explains the cuisine of the adherents of Zoroastrianism in *Parsi: From Persia to Bombay, Recipes and Tales From the Ancient Culture*.

In *The Half Known Life: In Search of Paradise*, Pico Iyer searches for utopia throughout the East and the Middle East.

Colm Tóibín’s essays in *A Guest at the Feast* revolve around his childhood in the 1950s and ’60s in Ireland.

ADULT FICTION EBOOK

Kennedy Ryan’s *Before I Let Go* is about a divorced couple’s second chance at love.

A North Korean boy’s life changes dramatically when he finds a guide to the game Dungeons & Dragons, in *The Sorcerer of Pyongyang* by Marcel Theroux.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Come to a presentation and a guided **Walking Tour of Noe Valley**, starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. See photographs of Noe Valley from the 1870s to the 1920s and view some of the neighborhood’s earliest Victorians.

The Noe Valley Library hosts **Family Storytimes** on Thursdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 10:15 a.m. and again at 11 a.m. The readings are popular, so space is limited.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles if you’re doing a special project.

Get **Drop-In Tech Help** from the library staff, including downloading ebooks, using electronic resources, and basic computer tasks; bring your own device, or use a library computer. Tuesday, March 7, 11 a.m. to noon.

The **Friday Matinee** features director Claudia Weill’s 1978 indie comedy *Girlfriends*, March 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. It stars Melanie Mayron, Christopher Guest, and Eli Wallach.

**Janell Pekkain** from Noe Valley’s Olive This Olive That brings an **Olive Oil Tasting** to the library on Saturday, March 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; space is limited.

The **World Literature Book Club’s** selection is *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. The group meets Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley Circulation Desk for checkout.

The Noe Valley **Book Club** discusses *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea, on Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

The Noe Valley Library hosts **LEGO Free Play** for children ages 5 and older and their families, on Sunday, March 19, 2 to 3 p.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.; 415-355-5707; sfpl.org.

ADULT NONFICTION EBOOKS

In *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America*, Leila Philip describes the role of a particularly industrious mammal in the creation of this country.

*Eat Your Mind: The Radical Life and Work of Kathy Acker* is Jason McBride’s biography of the author of such punk lit as *Pussy*, *King of the Pirates*.

ADULT BLU-RAY / DVD

A detective investigating a man’s death meets the man’s mysterious wife in the 2022 South Korean crime drama *Decision to Leave*.

A woman seeks justice following the death of her 14-year-old son at the hands of a lynch mob in Mississippi, in the 2022 film *Till*, starring Danielle Deadwyler.

In the 2022 drama *Bones and All*, a young woman and a drifter travel down the back roads of Ronald Reagan’s America.

Ralph Fiennes stars as a gourmet chef who stretches the boundaries of taste in the 2022 horror satire *The Menu*.

Steven Spielberg’s *The Fabelmans* is a coming-of-age story about a boy and his quest to make movies (2022).



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

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

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1298 Treat Avenue

3 BED | 2 BATH | Offered at \$1,250,000

*This sunny, corner flat is a welcoming mix of modern and vintage in one flexible floor plan. It boasts hardwood floors, designer lighting, in-unit laundry and large shared courtyard. Fully remodeled with spacious kitchen - custom cabinets, recessed and under cabinet lighting, stone counters, high end fixtures and stainless steel appliances.*

533 Oak Street

3 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$899,000

*Gorgeous, newly remodeled top floor residence nestled perfectly on the border of Noe Valley and the Mission's Valencia Street corridor - offering the best of both worlds and all these fabulous neighborhoods have to offer. This condo residence recently went under a cosmetic refresh and features a gorgeous deck, in-unit laundry, parking, a new kitchen, refinished floors, is newly painted and so much more. Currently rented at \$5k per month - instant ROI or owner move in.*



1169A Alabama Street

2 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$749,000

*This newly updated, garden-level two-bedroom and one-bathroom home and laundry, is located in the vibrant 24th Street Mission corridor. Stylish, generously sized rooms, an eat-in kitchen, and an indoor/ outdoor living experience are fitting for one of SF's hottest neighborhoods. This TIC caters to creature comforts including air conditioning! Enjoy direct access to a landscaped shared backyard that's perfect for al-fresco dining and entertaining.*



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