



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Pocket Dex App Tames Pokémon Game

Do You Know Where Your Charizard Is?

By Matthew S. Bajko

Two years ago, Kevin O'Connor noticed his daughter, Sophie, playing the Pokémon Trading Card Game with her friends. Like the popular animated television show and movies of the same name, Pokémon features fantastical creatures and beasts with special powers that battle one another.

At first, O'Connor didn't pay much interest. But as his daughter and her younger brother, Mikey, began asking to buy more packs of the cards, he found himself intrigued.

"You get dragged into this," said O'Connor. "I paid attention to what they were doing. A lot of dads get into it."

In a digital age, where kids are glued to their phones or wired into their video game consoles, the Pokémon card game is a fun way for them to unplug and interact socially with other players of the game, noted O'Connor. Another reason why he supported Sophie, now 8, and Mikey, who is 4, playing the game is it requires them to use and build up their math and language skills.

"You need to do basic arithmetic and read to do the game," said O'Connor.

When he began collecting the cards for himself a year ago, O'Connor quickly realized that in addition to being a fun pastime, the game was a financial marketplace. Via online websites and phone apps, people buy, sell, and trade their Pokémon cards.

"At first glance, it is a kid's game. But it is a micro-economy that is very sophisticated," said O'Connor.

Over dinner with a neighbor who is a developer for a tech company,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



A facsimile of the legendary Pikachu greets one of his fans, Mikey O'Connor, at a Pokémon Day at Just for Fun on 24th Street in February. Photo courtesy Michelle O'Connor

## Toilet Delivered To Town Square By Crane

'First Flush' Festivities Set for April 21

By Kit Cameron

Come one, come all for the First Flush of the new Noe Valley Town Square toilet on Sunday, April 21, between 1 and 3 p.m. Expect to see dances around a Toilet Tree and to hear a live band including trombones with plungers. Kids will have a chance to climb through a giant "Tee Pee" tube, and all are invited to make Toilet Tree ornaments out of, you guessed it, TP rolls. There will be a potty costume contest, and who's to say Fido can't participate?

Denizens of the town square, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets, have long been used to sheepishly relieving themselves at local cafes (thank you, Martha and Brothers!). Thanks to San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department, the leadership of the Noe Valley Town Square, and the good offices of Chad Kaufman, president of Public Restroom Company, and Vaughan Buckley, CEO of Volumetric Building Companies, the prefabricated bathroom came to rest the morning of March 7.

A giant articulated crane dropped the bright red-orange modular structure in the vacant spot behind the bulletin board, which had been waiting almost eight years to be filled. Regular coffee drinkers cheered. Local 38 workers protested with signs. Channel 7 sent a reporter. And various Rec and Park officials, along with Kaufman, stood around beaming with pride.

Mom Elizabeth Chait said with heartfelt sincerity, "It's good that it's here!"

The town square crapper even has its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Fully Transparent: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman fields a question at the March Upper Noe Neighbors meeting in the recently upgraded rec center auditorium. Photo by Chris Faust

## Upper Noe-yans Meet With Mandelman

Supervisor Says City Deficit May Cause 'Sucky Service'

By Kit Cameron

About 30 local residents and one dog showed up at the Upper Noe Neighbors bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 20. They were there to learn about or voice their opinions on the hot-button and cold-cash issues facing San Francisco.

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman gave a brisk rundown of the March 5 election, including measure F, which mandates drug treatment as part of a cash-care plan for street dwellers who use drugs. Mandelman noted, "My concern is that we never achieved that for people [who are] voluntarily seeking treatment. We need to get creative to provide treat-

ment for 1,000 new people."

Mandelman gave his thoughts on the general mood of voters in the city. While moderates are in the ascendancy, "I would say we are still a progressive city. More than 70 percent voted for [Proposition A], the affordable housing bond," which will increase property taxes. He added, "I think people are pragmatic about drug use and crime," meaning voters seem willing to approve technology such as cameras to deter theft or traffic violations.

Our District 8 supervisor also gave us a brief rundown on the financial constraints facing City Hall. As San Francisco is projecting an \$800 million budget shortfall by 2026, the city is already not filling jobs as they become

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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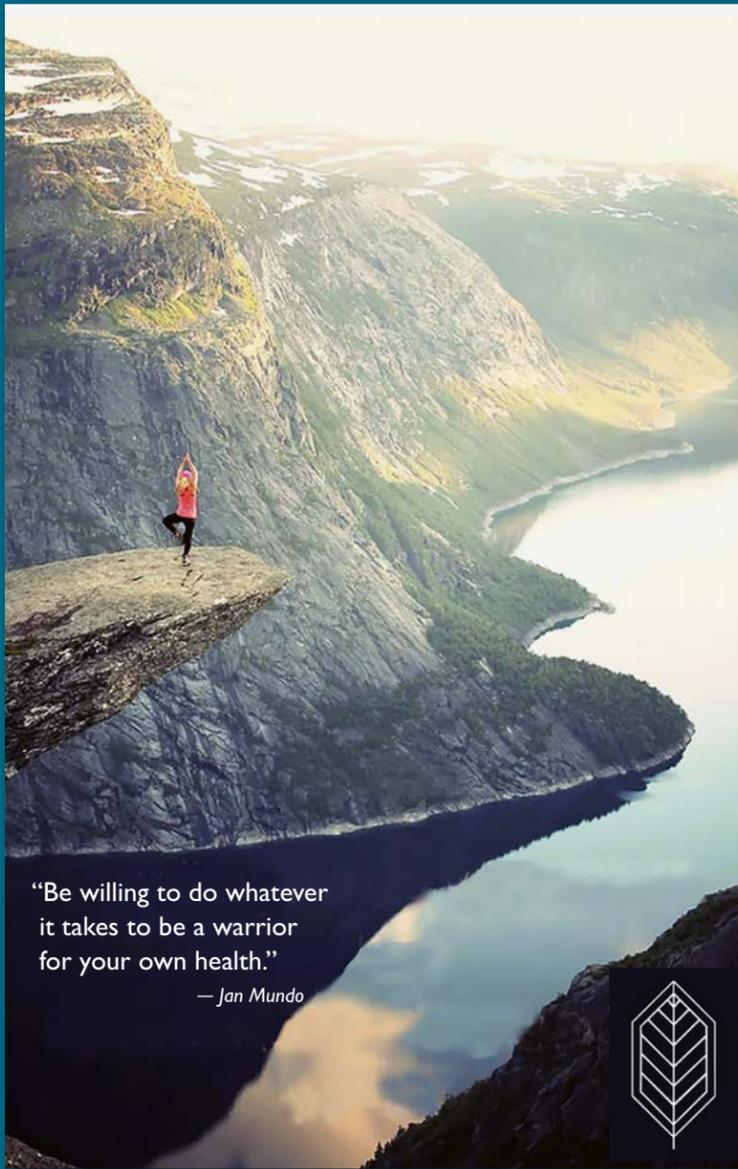
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# LETTERS 66 CENTS

## James Lick's Yard Blooming

Editor:  
Our Community Garden Day, held March 16 at James Lick Middle School, was a fantastic success ["Use Your Flower Power: Help Plant the Seeds," March 2024 *Noe Valley Voice*].

We had beautiful weather with notable attendees, including District 8 San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Noe Valley neighbors, and current JLMS parents, as well as elementary school parents from neighboring Alvarado School.

We are grateful for the succulent donations from Alvarado School's garden, the Shared Schoolyard program for compost and mulch, Sloat Garden for additional plants, and America SCORES, whose members did heavy lifting to prep the garden for this event.

A huge thank you to the *Noe Valley Voice* for getting the word out, and a huge thank you to everyone who participated!

If you are interested in our future garden events, please send an email to our PTSA Leadership at [ptsa@jameslickmiddleschool.org](mailto:ptsa@jameslickmiddleschool.org) and add the subject "Garden Community Event."

Gina Cockburn  
PTSA, James Lick Middle School  
1220 Noe Street

## Hateful Tropes

Editor:  
Last month, the *Noe Valley Voice* included a letter from Bernie Corace ("Ceasefire the Litmus Test"). Mr. Corace's letter, which claims to welcome a debate on the war in Gaza, quickly devolves into an antisemitic screed accusing our local politicians of being controlled by "Zionist money."



PTSA President Janette Fernandez gives two student gardeners a green thumbs up at James Lick's Community Garden Day March 16. Photo courtesy Gina Cockburn

"No politician," he writes, "begins their career as a vocal supporter of Israel," but is only forced to become one by shadowy "Zionist organizations."

We have seen these hateful tropes before. We have also seen where they lead. These conspiracies, created by anti-semites and repeated by the ignorant, have followed the Jewish people for thousands of years.

The war in Gaza is abominable, but it has not created more antisemites, as much as expose those who live as our neighbors. Mr. Corace's letter, as disgusting as it is, comes as no surprise. My only dismay is that the *Voice* would see fit to print it.

Scott Kravitz

## War Is Hell But It Is Not 'Genocide'

Editor:  
I am a former professor of sociology at City College with a great affection for Noe Valley. In breaks between morning and evening classes I would often enjoy a snack at Peasant Pies and a stroll on 24th Street.

I was concerned at some of the viewpoints I read in letters and ads in your February edition. War is a terrible thing. My uncle was felled by a Nazi bullet, and the town I grew up in was heavily bombed by the German Air Force. The scars of war never go away. I am for peace. An international peace conference exploring the full complexities of the war in Gaza would be beneficial to elevate the discussion from slogans and headlines that tend to oversimplify things. For example, Israel is now often referred to as a "European colonial settler state." This obscures much of 20th-century history. Israel is not a European colony.

In the early 1920s, the League of Nations partitioned the province of Syria, a multi-ethnic part of the old Ottoman Empire that contained Maronite Christians, Arabs, Turks, Druze, Kurds, Armenians, Greeks, and Alawites as well as Jews. Jews, like Arabs, Druze, Kurds, and others, are an indigenous people of Syria. The League of Nations mandated that France and Britain prepare the area for self-government and independence. The British mandate was for the southern part of Syria, named "Palestine" by the British. The British then portioned Palestine into a coastal section and a Transjordan Palestine (now the Arab nation of Jordan).

In 1947, the United Nations partitioned coastal Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state (Transjordan was already

## Activ8sf's View of District 8 Votes in the March Election

By Laurance Lee and Alan Burradell

A few weeks ago, ConnectedSF publicly introduced itself as a connected network of neighborhood groups with 10,000 plus neighbors across every supervisor district. We encourage you to join our District 8 group, Activ8sf, now three years old and with over 500 in our email list. Herein we give our thoughts on the recent March primary election and share our efforts as we look toward the November general election.

As many here in Noe Valley know, District 8 continues to be the strong turnout part of town. We can have a big sway on campaigns. For this election, we had the biggest turnout in the city, 59.4% of registered voters, compared to 46.6% city-wide. Our district accounted for one out of every seven votes across the city. Once again, our neighborhood and the others in District 8 proved to be the bellwether that voted in the direction of the winning campaigns, more so than any other part of town.

Judge Patrick Thompson kept his seat as judge of the Superior Court, Seat 13, over challenger and assistant district attorney Jean Roland, 55.5% to 44.5%. Of the 32,362 votes separating the two candidates, District 8 voters provided the biggest number favoring Thompson, 18,512 vs. 11,385, or 7,127.

Measure C, the real estate property tax exemption for converting offices to residential use, passed with 52.8% of votes in favor. Of the 12,373 difference, District 8 provided the second most votes, 3,723, behind only District 2, with 6,189. Of all the races, District 8 voters were only on the opposite side of the majority on Measure E, which will limit police staff administrative time and expand the use of surveillance technology—but not by much. While E passed with 54.1% of the vote, District 8 voters were 52.9% against it.

Our votes here matter quite a bit in reflecting the sentiment of citywide voters. As both measures C and E were proposed and supported by Mayor London Breed, one can surmise that voters here have faith in the people and proposals from those in charge of government.

At the same time, we in Activ8sf have noticed a growing trend of dissatisfaction with parts of government. When ConnectedSF's campaigns got signatures to stop the "cop tax" [Measure B, rejected by voters March 5] and to have better transparency on the \$14 billion budget, a good number came from our part of town.

We now are part of a campaign to amend and roll back parts of Proposition 47, the 2014 initiative that raised the felony threshold for theft from \$400 to \$950 in California. This effort, which aims to put a ballot initiative on the November ballot, already has 500,000 signatures and is seeking more before the April 20 deadline. Many places in Noe have petitions for people to sign. We are also helping organize voter forums, for supervisor and mayor races. Keep an eye out and come join us. You can sign up for our newsletter at <https://www.activ8sf.com>.

*A child of immigrants, native San Franciscan Laurance Lee planted roots in Noe Valley 25 years ago. Alan Burradell is a 30-year San Francisco resident who lives in the Castro District. Lee and Burradell are on the steering committee for Activ8sf.*

## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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independent). Both Jews and Arabs had migrated to coastal Palestine as the economy prospered, but both Jews and Arabs were native to the area. Jerusalem, of course, was inhabited by Jews thousands of years ago.

Recognition of Jews' indigenous rights is an essential first step towards a comprehensive peace. Today probably half of Israel's Jewish population is of Middle Eastern or African (not European) origin. In the 1920s, one quarter of Baghdad's population was Jewish (expelled in 1948). As Bahrain's foreign minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa recently stated, "Israel is part of the heritage of this whole region."

Another slogan that chills dialog is "supports genocide." Accusing Israel of intentional genocide runs the risk of making the word *genocide* meaningless.

In war, there are civilian casualties. 150,000 civilian deaths have been estimated in the recent conflict in Yemen, 20,000 killed by Saudi bombing. 600,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed in the fighting in Ethiopia. When the United States invaded Normandy in 1944, there were many deaths of French civil-

ians. Was the U.S. therefore guilty of genocide of the French? War is bad and should be avoided at all costs, but accusing the Jewish state of genocide, when the Jewish people were targets of a systematic intentional "final solution" to exterminate all Jews, is a fatally flawed way of ending war and making peace.

War is hell, but it is not genocide, and if it were, we wouldn't need the word "genocide." What we need is discussion and dialog. As Winston Churchill once said, "It is better to jaw, jaw, jaw, than to war, war, war." We do need a lot of jawing. There's a vast amount to go over and review and contemplate. Doing that we can inch towards peace.

Dr. Mik Moore  
Santa Cruz, Calif.

## CORRECTION

On page 18 of the March 2023 *Voice*, we mistakenly credited a photo of a "sunset" to Sally Smith, when in fact the sunrise was taken by local resident Bill Yenne. We apologize for the error and hope to use another of Bill's beautiful sunrises in the future.

## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN

And as Dorothy says goodbye to her new friends...



# CRIME SNAPSHOT

## Incidents Creep Up

Crime in Noe Valley inched up slightly in February of this year, according to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports.

There were 83 incidents reported during the month, five more than in January, in the 10 categories that the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly.

The most common incidents were those classified by police as larceny/theft. Of the 31 recorded in February, three were stolen license plates, six were shoplifting incidents, and 15 were thefts from cars, trucks, or other vehicles.

Noe Valley also saw 19 burglaries, 17 of which occurred at residential buildings. The other two break-ins took place at a local business and a home under construction.

Eleven vehicles were pinched from Noe Valley streets, though one was recovered. There also were four assaults and one robbery with a gun—a scary incident that occurred on Feb. 28 at 5:22 p.m. in the vicinity of Valley and Dolores streets.

The *Voice* collected the February data on March 13, 2024, so numbers may have increased.

Our source is the "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present," a dataset at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-jq29-s5wp](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-jq29-s5wp). The reports in the dataset are filed by officers or self-

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA														
Noe Valley Incident Reports February 2023 – February 2024														
Incident Type	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	Sep23	Oct23	Nov23	Dec23	YTD23	Jan24	Feb24
Larceny/Theft	17	21	15	34	30	35	27	26	34	39	24	334	32	31
Burglary	10	13	13	7	19	25	20	23	21	20	5	187	19	19
Malicious Mischief	4	9	9	4	16	13	10	8	11	11	7	105	3	8
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	14	10	10	20	27	17	15	11	12	12	173	8	11
Assault	3	8	2	5	3	2	4	2	1	5	7	49	3	4
Robbery	0	3	0	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22	2	1
Other Misc.	5	6	5	0	3	1	4	3	3	7	11	53	3	5
Fraud	3	1	0	3	6	2	5	6	2	5	1	37	4	4
Family D.Violence	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	3	0
Vandalism	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>

**Source:** Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-jq29-s5wp](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-jq29-s5wp). 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* gathered the February 2024 data on March 13, 2024. "Noe Valley" on the SFPD's digital map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

*Noe Valley Voice April 2024*

reported by members of the public using SFPD's online reporting system.

The SFPD notes that the "dataset may not capture other law enforcement agency incidents within San Francisco (BART PD, U.S. Park Police, for example), or reports not filed with the SFPD."

"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.

Go online to [sanfranciscopolice.org](https://sanfranciscopolice.org) to file incident reports for lost property, graffiti, harassing phone calls, vandalism, and property stolen from vehicles. To report burglaries and other crimes, go to your nearest police station.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith



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Meredith R.

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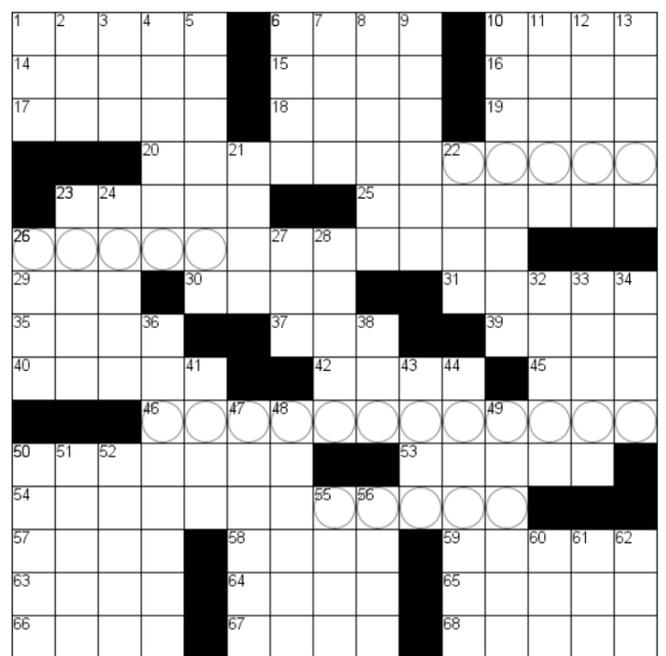
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## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### At the Salon

#### ACROSS

- In the midst of
- Firm behind the onetime "Off Fifth" outlet store on Market
- \_\_\_ of the D'Urbervilles
- Up to now
- Movie segment
- "Either it is \_\_\_ isn't!"
- Keyboard instrument
- Miller product
- Egg on
- Smell from an essential oil with hints of vanilla and brown sugar
- "Fooled ya!"
- Chester Nimitz, e.g.
- Fuzzy items that Rover loves to fetch
- Longtime newsstand owner \_\_\_ Salameh
- \_\_\_ buco: dish at the former Bacco
- "That's the last \_\_\_!"
- Leave \_\_\_ Beaver
- All-purpose vehicle, briefly
- Tender, like a bruise
- Stain-remover brand
- Annapolis initials
- Itsy-bitsy
- Advantage
- They're welcome at Noe Valley Pet Co.
- Bouquet
- Dad's admonition to avoid backtalk
- Former Yankee slugger, familiarly
- Singles
- Phrase repeated ad



- nauseam in a 1987 Michael Jackson #1
- Skimpy swimwear brand
- Many Haight-Ashbury visitors
- Greek "S"
- Purloin
- Advanced degs. at Berkeley
- Big name in organic TV dinners
- Poet Sylvia, *The Bell Jar* author
- Reach by totaling
- Greek letters that resemble pitchforks
- Buckeye State sch.
- Rolled out of bed
- Laugh-In* star Dan
- Ain't right?
- Pot; grass
- Obsolete
- Sixth sense
- Just one of those things?
- Loch \_\_\_ Monster
- Certain inverse trig function
- Bony jabbers
- Early collection of online discussion groups
- "Yo, dude!"
- John Quincy \_\_\_
- Jazz singer Jones
- Hole-\_\_\_: golfer's dream
- One of many atop a Holey Bagel bagel
- Inquires
- Auction action
- "Sting like a bee" boxer
- What began in March, for short

2024 April Noe Valley Voice

**Solution on Page 21**  
Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](https://www.noevalleyvoice.com)



“room to grow”

Real estate has a language all its own.

*corcoran*

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# App Helps Catalog Pokémon Cards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

O'Connor brought up the Pokémon card game. His neighbor's children also played it. O'Connor mentioned that he wished he had a better system to track the upwards of 3,000 cards he and his children now owned.

A few days later, his neighbor showed O'Connor an app he had created to do just that. Impressed, O'Connor joined forces with his neighbor, who wishes to remain anonymous, to further develop the app and release it to the public.

"We thought maybe there was something to this and we should take it to the next level and see what we could do with it," said O'Connor.

## PokeOz Approves

Called Pocket Dex, the app is free for users to download via the website [www.pocketdexapp.com](http://www.pocketdexapp.com) and in Apple's app store for its iPhones and other devices. It allows users to create a catalogue of 200 of their Pokémon cards. After that it costs \$4.99 to upgrade for access to building an unlimited library of one's game cards.

It went live Jan. 20 and had surpassed 700 downloads at the end of February. O'Connor said they were surprised at how quickly people downloaded it.

"The app does not help you play the game," O'Connor stressed. "It is all about organizing your cards and helping you complete each set."

The app has gotten notice within the Pokémon card-trading community. In February, an Australian YouTuber, who uses the name PokeOz and focuses on Pokémon card investing, gave a shout-out to Pocket Dex in one of his videos.

"If I didn't think it was any good, I wouldn't mention it," PokeOz declared in the video, which has been viewed more than 4,500 times.

## Game Almost 30 Years Old

Japanese video game designer Satoshi Tajiri created the Pokémon franchise and released the first video game in 1996. The Pokémon card game debuted that October in Japan and came to the U.S. in 1998, the same year that the television show began airing in America.

"I watched some of the cartoons as a kid. I didn't collect the cards, though," O'Connor, 43, told the *Voice* during an interview in late February.

The game's characters, collectively known as Pokémon, each have their own name and Zodiac sign. The most famous is Pikachu, a cute yellow mouse-like creature. There are also human figures who interact with the mythical characters.

The card game largely follows the television show and features the same characters on the cards. Each character has different strengths and weaknesses, along with specific powers, which factor into how you use the cards and play the game.

## New Cards Released Each Year

Every year, three or four new sets of cards for the game are released. A pack with 10 random cards sells for \$5.99 and usually includes at least one hard-to-find card.

Each set can have anywhere from 160 to 230 numbered cards, some of which are marked as rare and whose reproduction is limited.

The individual cards are assigned a



Pocket Dex co-founder Kevin O'Connor displays cards and other Pokémon paraphernalia at a game day held at Just for Fun in February. The event drew over a hundred kids.

Photo courtesy Michelle O'Connor

value in the resale market based on how many duplicates have been made and how many sold to the public. The popularity of the character featured on the card is also a big factor.

## 'The Thrill of the Chase'

One quite rare card O'Connor owns features Charizard, a large orange dragon character that is a powerful card to play in the game. It is now worth \$4,000 and one of the 100 most valuable cards O'Connor has set aside for safekeeping so that they are not damaged and lose their worth if his children ever want to sell them.

"I have taken them out of circulation and saved them for their future," said O'Connor. "Some of these are pieces of

history. They are also quite perishable. Once they are gone, they are gone forever."

O'Connor spent 22 years working in venture capital. He retired from doing so last summer and now has "more time on my hands," he said, to pursue interests like the Pokémon card game.

"Part of it is the thrill of the chase," O'Connor said of the joy he derives from collecting the cards. "You never know what you are going to get. Usually, there is one rare or better card in a pack."

He has 199 unique cards from a set that was released with 207 numbered cards in it. He has been working to collect all of them.

"Getting the first 80 percent of the

set was fun and enjoyable. As you get near completion, it becomes harder and harder because you end up with a lot of card duplicates. But it makes it more fun to trade cards to complete your set," said O'Connor.

## How the App Works

Making it easier to do so is where the Pocket Dex app comes into play. Via the app a Pokémon player can upload pictures of their game cards to create a digital catalogue. The app is able to tell them how much each card is worth and connects to other sites where they can trade it or sell it to other card collectors or game players.

It uses artificial intelligence technology to recognize the image on each card and determine its monetary value. It also gives users the total value of each collection of cards they own from a particular set.

One upgrade to the app they already made is adding a button so users can buy all of the Pokémon cards they need to complete a set. Previously, they could only buy each card individually.

At the moment, users cannot sell their cards via the app. To do so, they must click over to a site that Pocket Dex has a partnership with, such as the online marketplace TCGPlayer, where Pokémon players can trade, sell, and buy game cards.

## Selling Cards a Possibility

Being able to sell cards within Pocket Dex is a feature they may add in the future, said O'Connor.

"Software is never done," he noted. "We will listen to what the customers want in added features and hopefully make it more usable for people."

O'Connor had scanned 1,349 of his cards into the app the day he met with the *Voice* to discuss it. One feature of the app is it can tell him what cards he can trade for that are of a similar value to the ones he owns.

Users can also connect with each other within the app. It can then scan their card catalogues and suggest trades they can make.

"The super cool thing with this is where your friends come in. It will cross-reference with them and give you potential trades for cards," said O'Connor.

## Pokémon Day at Just for Fun

When his wife, Michelle, in 2021 took over ownership of gift store Just for Fun on 24th Street, as the family lives in Noe Valley and had frequented the shop for years, O'Connor saw firsthand the popularity of the Pokémon card game in the neighborhood. In addition to the individual card packets, the store stocks boxed sets of multiple packs of cards (\$21.95) and sets with both cards and figurines of the characters (\$65).

"When we took over the store, I couldn't get over how popular Pokémon was. The products were flying off the shelves," said Kevin O'Connor.

To mark the launch of the Pocket Dex app, O'Connor and his silent business partner hosted a free Pokémon card game day at Just for Fun the first Sunday in February. It drew 104 kids who played the game and traded their cards with each other. The store may host another such event in the future, but has yet to announce a date.

"Seeing the kids' enthusiasm and passion for Pokémon reaffirms why events like these are so important in bringing people together," said Michelle O'Connor. She dressed as Pikachu for the occasion. ■



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The city installed downtown Noe Valley's long-awaited bathroom March 7 and celebrated with the words "The eagle has landed!" Photos courtesy Daniel Montes, SF Recreation and Park Department

## Toilet Touchdown: One Small Step for Mankind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Public Restroom Company President Chad Kaufman, of Reno, Nev., smiles with relief after his prefab bathroom lands safely in the Noe Valley Town Square. Photo by Kit Cameron

own Wikipedia entry with footnotes. The initial design of the Town Square included a public toilet, which had to be deferred for lack of funding.

In 2022, Assemblymember Matt Haney proudly announced that he had secured \$1.7 million for the project. Blowback ensued. Descriptions of a "solid gold commode" were tossed around. Finally, in April 2023, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors accepted the funds on the condition they be spent on *two* public restrooms. The second, in Precita Park, is in the planning stages now.

Meanwhile, Kaufman and Buckley stepped up with an offer to donate \$425,000 to cover the cost of both the modular restroom building and the installation. This being San Francisco, acceptance was neither swift nor straightforward. Finally, an agreement was signed, with local labor on board, to plop the flusher on the pad and hook

it up. When the installation was completed March 7, Rec and Park posted on X, "The eagle has landed!"

Rec and Park project manager Eoanna Goodwin is optimistic that, pending inspection and approval, the first effluence will go down in early April. All that's left to do is operate the first flush with a good old-fashioned Toilet Bowl (April 21).

No doubt there will be dignitaries and speeches, and maybe Channel 7 will show up again. At press time, the party had expanded to include a free yoga demonstration "to activate digestion," a Just for Fun sponsored crafts table, music by the band American Standard, and acrobatics from the group A, B, C Circus.

Kaufman has promised he won't miss the event. For more information, check out the town square website, [noevalleytownsquare.com](http://noevalleytownsquare.com), or email [info@noevalleytownsquare.com](mailto:info@noevalleytownsquare.com). ■

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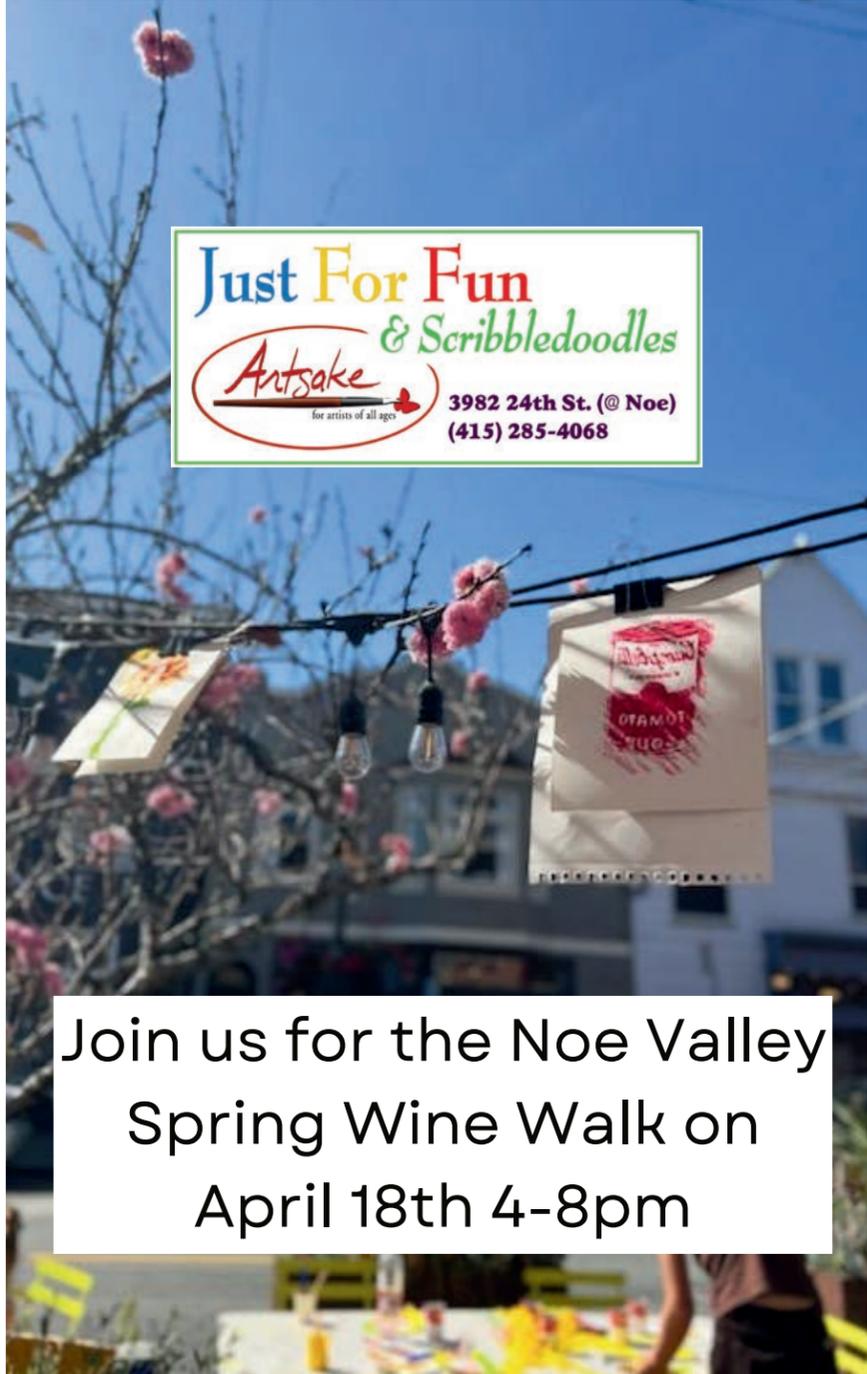
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## Planning Body Greenlights Earthquake Shack Project

New Two-Story Home Will Incorporate 1906 Structure

By Matthew S. Bajko

Opponents of a plan to incorporate a historic earthquake shack structure in Noe Valley into a new single-family home development have failed to win support from the San Francisco Planning Commission. The oversight body unanimously voted to allow the project to move forward.

The five members present at the commission's Feb. 22 hearing sided with the planning staff recommendation to support the proposal for 369 Valley St., where the earthquake structure is located. Currently set in the back of the property, the historic structure is comprised of two shacks once used to house survivors of the 1906 earthquake.

It is to be moved closer to the street, raised off the ground, and repurposed as part of the front façade of a new home to be built on the sloped site. The home will have four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

"I can see how they will remain visible as a historical resource from the street and sidewalk," said Commissioner Derek Braun, who had called for the vote in support of the project.

In doing so, the planning commissioners rejected the request made by 29th Street resident Marc Norton that they require property owner John Schrader to alter his plans. Other adjacent neighbors and historic preservation advocates had supported Norton's calls for the earthquake shack structure to remain at the rear of the property.

By allowing it to be moved, argued Norton, "it will be unrecognizable as an earthquake cottage."

Fabien Lannoye, a principal designer with Schrader's firm Nova Designs + Builds, refuted that contention. He also said it was "simply irrational" to think that moving the cottages would lead to their destruction.

"They will be a better and more visible historical resource, that people will be able to see from the street, and enjoyed by more," argued Lannoye.

After Norton's discretionary review hearing request was rejected, Zoning Administrator Corey Teague said he would grant the variance the developer



With the Planning Commission's approval of the property owner's new building plans, it appears the earthquake shack structure at 369 Valley St. may be moving closer to the sidewalk. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

had requested to move forward with the project. Planning staff will continue to work with Lannoye on refining the look of the new two-story building.

Debate over the redevelopment of the property has been going on for more than a decade. Schrader initially sought to demolish the earthquake shack structure on site, one of the few remaining out of the 5,610 shacks that were built after the quake and fire.

In 2015, the San Francisco Planning Department concluded that the Valley Street shacks were of historical value and eligible for listing on a statewide register of historic properties in California. Schrader then changed course, submitting various proposals for incorporating the L-shaped structure into a larger residential home.

Several hearings scheduled in 2023 were postponed as Schrader and his architects looked at ways to mitigate the concerns raised by the public. City planners had raised objections to an alternative plan proposed by preservation architect Michael Garavaglia that was supported by Norton and his neighbors.

Thus, they signed off on the design submitted by Schrader. The planning staff decision prompted Norton to file his design review request. He had thought a meeting to try to mediate a compromise ahead of the planning commission hearing would be held, but none was scheduled.

Norton could appeal the oversight body's decision to the city's Board of Appeals. He told the *Voice* he was conferring with other opponents of the project on what to do next.

"We are assessing the situation and our options. Appeals, perhaps multiple appeals, are certainly an option. We, of course, believe that the Planning Commission decision is deeply flawed," said Norton. ■

## Neighbors Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vacant. "The next move is eliminating positions. We are woefully understaffed. You will get stuck with sucky service for the next few years."

UNN members had a lot of questions about the state-mandated need to plan for 82,000 new housing units in San Francisco and how that might affect Noe Valley. The most obvious impact would be the "upzoning" of transit corridors such as Church Street, meaning buildings of up to six stories permitted and perhaps even encouraged.

Mandelman pointed out that the requirement was still being worked out. He recommended, "It would behoove this group to work with the mayor's office to get someone from Planning to explain what is going on."

### Tree Pruning Behind Schedule

Chris Buck of the city's Bureau of Urban Forestry gave the crowd a primer on street trees, who is responsible for them and how to care for them. "I love trees!" he said, as he praised the number and diversity of trees in Noe Valley.

With the passage of Proposition E in 2006, he said, the responsibility for trees on sidewalks passed from individual homeowners to the city. The city aims to prune all trees on a three-year cycle, "but we are behind right now because of the pandemic. We are still trying to fill positions."

A \$12 million grant courtesy of the Inflation Reduction Act means that the bureau has funding for 2,500 more new trees. But, Buck said, "We need funding sources for basic tree replacement." In the storm of March 2023, he added, "we lost a lot of trees and are trying to

replace areas [in the city] with a lower number of trees."

Questions emerged from the audience about the dreaded ficus trees, which pop up concrete sidewalks and drop limbs unexpectedly. "We are aggressive with ficus trees," said Buck. "We evaluate them one by one and won't hesitate to remove them [if they are unsafe]." Homeowners with tree problems or questions can reach out to Urban Forestry through 311.

### Bike Parking on Fast Track

UNN President Chris Faust gave us a sneak peek at what Slow Sanchez might look like in the future. The detailed design draft was the focus of a March 18 meeting between UNN board members and city officials, including Next Gen Slow Sanchez project manager Alejo Alvarado. The SFMTA has proposed adding painted safety zones, bollards, bike parking, and landscaped traffic-calming islands along the 14 blocks between 23rd and 30th streets.

The detailed plan is easy to view on the Upper Noe Neighbors' website ([uppernoeneighbors.com](http://uppernoeneighbors.com)) by selecting the Issues tab. Members of the public who want to comment on the design have until mid-April to contact [SlowStreets@SFMTA.com](mailto:SlowStreets@SFMTA.com) with "Sanchez Street" in the subject line.

Faust finished the meeting by sharing draft banner designs by Rhonel Roberts as part of the group's Church Street rebranding project, and by reviewing Upper Noe Neighbors' 11 goals for 2024. Both are available for viewing at the UNN website.

The next meeting of the non-profit (memberships are a tax-deductible \$20 a year) will be May 15, 7 p.m., at the Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day St. All are invited. ■



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## From Student to Teacher to ‘CEO’

Jackie Curran Is Enjoying Her New Role As St. Paul’s Principal

By Maureen Barry

Jackie Curran, a third-generation Noe Valley resident and a graduate of St. Paul’s School at Church and 29th streets, whose mother worked at Bell Market and who remembers moving to “Army” Street 35 years ago, is now the school’s principal.

Curran assumed the role in fall 2022 after 16 years as the school’s first-grade teacher. She graduated from UC Davis and then earned a master’s in education from Arizona State University. As the oldest of four sisters who all graduated from the school, Curran sees St. Paul’s as a family tradition.

“I’m the class of 1995, my mother was 1973, while my father was 1971, and my grandmother was the class of 1930,” Curran recently confirmed to a reporter from the University of Notre Dame’s Remick Leadership Program, where Curran is enrolled in a second master’s program over three summers and two school years.

Curran’s family members have either attended or worked at St. Paul’s School for 90 of its 108 years.

“My great-grandparents were married in the church next door in 1912. My grandparents were married there in 1939, and I made my first communion in the church on my grandparents’ 50th wedding anniversary—the exact date.”

While a strong advocate for St. Paul’s, Curran says she did not really like school as a child. “I loved learning, especially reading, doing experiments, and solving math problems, but school felt more like playing a game instead of actually learning. However, I cried when I graduated, and my eighth-grade teacher is the reason I’m an educator, so St. Paul’s obviously made an impression,” she says.

Curran, now 43, says the whole idea of school should be to inspire students to want to learn. “We don’t know what the future holds, so we have to prepare our students to want to continue learning and to understand how they learn best.”

Curran says educators today know a lot more about how the brain works. They also can take advantage of digital and research-based tools.

As a result, she says, St. Paul’s can be more responsive to the individual student than it could be in her

youth. “Previously, Catholic schools, and many others, relied more on rote learning and were quite rigid about teaching disciplines. Today, responsiveness and differentiation are key.”

“The spirit we are trying to foster is that everyone in our school building, teachers as well as students, is learning and growing in a thriving community. As they say, you can’t teach community without modeling it,” Curran says.

She encourages each teacher to develop a unique continuing education curriculum. “For example, our kindergarten teacher is researching better ways to teach phonics, while our eighth-grade teacher is focusing on executive functioning and how 12- and 13-year-olds can learn techniques that will help them in high school and beyond.”

**“Previously, Catholic schools, and many others, relied more on rote learning and were quite rigid about teaching disciplines. Today, responsiveness and differentiation are key.”**

**Jackie Curran, Principal  
St Paul’s School**

Curran adds it is all about collaboration. “I don’t want any teacher to feel isolated but to be encouraged to learn from each other. We’re all in this journey together—students, teachers, and families.”

St. Paul’s Pastor Mario Farana says, “Jackie is a God send! She is very bright and so committed to St. Paul’s. Serving as principal is not just a job for her, it is a mission.”

In 1989, when Curran was 8, her family moved into her grandparents’ house on Cesar Chavez Street, then known as Army Street.

Back then, her mother worked at Bell Market, now Whole Foods, and Curran enjoyed walking to and from Bell and going into the shops along 24th Street. “We would read horoscopes at Just for Fun or read in the public library garden [on Jersey Street]. I still miss Juice It smoothies on a hot day!” says Curran, who currently lives on 27th Street.

One of Curran’s favorite things about Noe Valley is the small community. “It

feels like I live on *Sesame Street* sometimes,” Curran says. “The Noe Café is run by St. Paul’s parents, the produce market on 30th has alumni connections, Baron’s [Meats] donates to our Oktoberfest. Everyone is connected, and it’s the greatest thing to have our parish and school in

the heart of it.”

Just the same, there are challenges. San Francisco lost many young parents and families during Covid. Also, there are not as many Catholics in our community, says Curran. Nearly a quarter of the St. Paul’s student body is non-Catholic. At one time, St. Paul’s had the highest enrollment of any Catholic primary school west of the Mississippi River.

Secondly, Curran points to the teacher shortage and how difficult it is for young teachers to live and work in San Francisco.

Yet she is not deterred. In her first year, she hired a grant writer that secured significant funding for school enrichment programs. This year, Curran found more tuition aid to ensure families can continue at St. Paul’s. The cur-

rent tuition is around \$10,000 annually.

“Jackie is committed to keeping St. Paul’s School the vibrant, thriving community she has enjoyed all her life,” says Bissa Zamboldi-Moore, a St. Paul’s parent and board member. “She is such an energetic and earnest principal.”

Curran is the first to admit that becoming a principal was an adjustment. “Transitioning from teacher to principal was like going from educator to CEO, with new responsibilities in

financial management, human resources, and legal issues, among others.”

Still, she relishes the opportunity this position gives her to nurture and follow students throughout their St. Paul’s journey.

“As a first-grade teacher, I loved all my students—in different ways. But I had to say goodbye to them after nine months. Now I can follow and support them throughout their years at the school.” ■



Now in her second year as principal of the school she attended as a child, Jackie Curran is excited to be part of a community that is both familiar and changing to meet the needs of a diversity of students and families.

Photo by Art Bodner



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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## \$7.2 Million Home Sale

By Corrie M. Anders

New owners took the keys to eight single-family detached homes in Noe Valley in February, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

The number of sales was double that of January and two more than in February a year ago.

Buyers also purchased six condominiums in February, a respectable number as well.

Both houses and condos were on the market for a relatively short time, selling on average in 22 days.

Could these be signs of a real estate market wake-up, after months of the Big Sleep?

“It’s perking up a little bit,” said



A buyer in February paid \$7.2 million for this renovated Edwardian home on 23rd Street. The four-story dwelling has five bedrooms, six baths, and more than 5,000 square feet of living space.

Corcoran Icon CEO Randall Kostick. “And we’ll see more [activity] as spring rolls out.”

Another harbinger of consumer optimism could be that buyers paid an average 7 to 8 percent more than the sellers’ asking price.

That helped push the average price of a detached home to \$3.3 million—30 percent more than the \$2.5 million outlier in February of 2023.

However, don’t bet the farm on that increase. One of the eight houses in this February’s sample was a luxury home whose sale price was \$7.2 million. That made it the fifth most expensive home sold in Noe Valley since the *Voice* began compiling sales data in 1999. And the sale no doubt was the heavy-weight in this month’s statistics.

Located in the 4400 block of 23rd Street between Hoffman and Grand View avenues, the home boasted five bedrooms, six baths, and 5,040 square feet of living space, spread over four levels.

Originally built in 1900 and once owned by a librarian, the Edwardian-style house had been renovated over five years to feature modern finishes



A three bedroom, two-bath condominium in this two-unit building on Cesar Chavez Street sold for \$2,150,000 in February.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
February 2024	8	\$1,530,000	\$7,200,000	\$3,260,750	22	108%
January 2024	4	\$1,325,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,012,500	65	102%
February 2023	6	\$1,600,000	\$3,300,000	\$2,517,458	26	112%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
February 2024	6	\$920,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,548,333	22	107%
January 2024	5	\$1,044,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,396,400	61	96%
February 2023	5	\$1,205,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,442,300	30	100%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
February 2024	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	11	114%
January 2024	1	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	144	81%
February 2023	2	\$1,100,000	\$2,475,000	\$1,787,500	34	102%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
February 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2023	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. NVV4/2024

and an open floor plan design, while reflecting its Victorian past by keeping such things as a bookcase with a sliding library ladder.

Besides top-quality wood, marble, and stone details, the home offered a central staircase with skylight, green-energy-efficient water and heating systems, air-conditioning on the top two floors, a wine room, two-car parking, and three decks with views of the bay and downtown.

The most expensive condominium sold in February was a three-bedroom,

two-bath residence in the 3800 block of Cesar Chavez Street between Dolores and Church streets. The \$2,150,000 paid for the 1,855-square-foot, two-level property was \$1,000 more than what the seller sought (\$2,149,000).

In a building first constructed in 1908, the renovated condo had a gourmet kitchen with bespoke appliances, an in-ceiling sound system, a wood-burning fireplace, a shared tree-filled garden, and two decks with southern views. There also is space for one car in the garage. ■

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2024	Average March 2024	Average February 2024	Average March 2023
Studio	9	\$1,900 – \$2,695	\$2,312 / mo.	\$2,396 / mo.	\$2,420 / mo.
1-bdrm	35	\$2,000 – 4,500	\$2,885 / mo.	\$2,873 / mo.	\$3,115 / mo.
2-bdrm	29	\$2,595 – \$5,800	\$3,846 / mo.	\$3,795 / mo.	\$4,132 / mo.
3-bdrm	13	\$3,995 – \$9,000	\$6,159 / mo.	\$5,255 / mo.	\$6,001 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,895 – \$12,000	\$7,315 / mo.	\$9,021 / mo.	\$9,166 / mo.

\*\*This survey is based on a sample of 92 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Feb. 14 to March 9, 2024. In March 2023, there were 123 listings. NVV4/2024

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Ladies of Noe Valley.

Painting by Elizabeth Dekker



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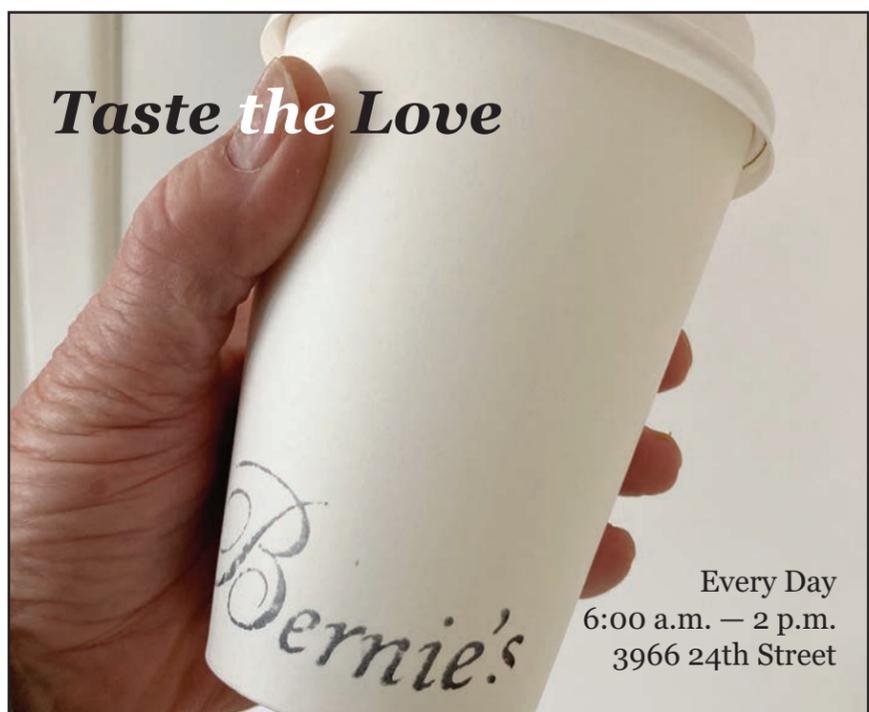
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## Shrek Jr. Is the Drama at Brava

Students from James Lick Take Their Show on the Road

By Kit Cameron

Get your green on with the James Lick Middle School production of *Shrek the Musical Jr.*, coming to you April 19 to 21 at the Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St., a block west of Potrero Avenue. “Jr.” means that the show is a shorter version of the Broadway musical *Shrek*, based on the DreamWorks’ movie about a lovable ogre who rescues a princess, with surprising results.

Audiences may also be surprised to learn that James Lick, at 1220 Noe St., has a robust theater program, led for the past 10 years by Theatre Arts Director Keith Carames. For shows like *Shrek Jr.*, Carames has developed a partnership with Brava’s in-house Mission Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA) as well as the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (SFBATCO). In fact, Marcelo Javier and Rodney Earl Jackson Jr., who co-founded BATCO a decade ago, are former students of Carames.

“Part of my mission at James Lick is to open as many doors as possible,” says Carames. “One way to do this is to invite working theater professionals to share the stage with our students.”

In this year’s musical, he says, “our students will be live on stage with two adult performers playing the roles of Shrek and Fiona. [The students] get a master class in how to behave, prepare,



During rehearsals for *Shrek Jr.*, actor Kaylee Miltersen (right) demonstrates a dance move for seventh-graders Miyo Inclan (left) and Cailyn Cockburn. Photo courtesy Keith Carames

and create in the rehearsal process.” They also get to help write the show.

The high standards of the James Lick program are evident in its production team. Director Phaedra Tillery-Boughton, a resident artist at BATCO, has loads of experience in acting, directing, and playwriting. Choreographer Ruby Day comes with a history of stage presence as Snow White in the long-running *Beach Blanket Babylon*. The music will be directed by Diana Lee, pit orchestra expert from the Youth Musical Theater Company. The technical production is in the hands of Brava and MAPA education director Melvign Badiola.

You may have seen Fiona actor

Kaylee Miltersen, along with Day and Tillery-Boughton, in the “Panto in the Presidio” production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Anthonie Jackson, who channels his inner ogre to play Shrek, starred in James Lick’s first live production after Covid, *Together Again*, in 2023.

Carames has built a professional program for his middle school students that cycles through three years of differing theater concepts. “One year we have an original creation involving social and political issues,” he says. An example of this is *The Covid Chronicles*, which was performed and filmed without an audience in 2022 at Brava Theater. “[The next year] we do a musical review, [such as *Together Again*], stringing together songs from different musicals to create a new show.”

The third year of the rotation is a “book musical” such as *Shrek Jr.*, already established in the canon. “By the time they go to high school they can interpret a script [and] do anything,” says Carames. And the numbers prove this. “I have a 95 percent [acceptance] rate at School of the Arts,” he brags. And students go on to careers in the field. Former student Christian Jimenez played a lead character in the recent production of *Measure for Measure* at American Conservatory Theater.

Determined to make lemonade from lemons, three years ago Carames decided it was time to quit the dilapidated school auditorium for a professional theater space. Moving to Brava came with a complement of professional theater directorial staff and technicians. Adult mentors in sound, scenic design, lighting, and stage management coach their apprentices through MAPA’s Running Crew program, which gives students hands-on experience in producing the show.

## More Than \$7,500 Raised For Peter Gabel Plaque

A community fundraising effort has netted the \$7,500 to pay for a bronze plaque honoring one of the Noe Valley Farmers Market co-founders. It could be installed as soon as this summer.

To help with the installation, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman has authored legislation to waive the permitting fee that the city normally charges such projects. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is expected to approve it this spring.

The plaque will commemorate Peter Gabel, a progressive activist who died in 2022. He worked with fellow Noe Valley resident Leslie Crawford to bring the weekly farmers market to the neighborhood over 20 years ago, due to the closure of the Real Food Company. The grocery had shuttered its 24th Street location to thwart an effort by the employees there to form a union.

As Mandelman noted in his legislation, Gabel had earned the moniker “the Mayor of Noe Valley” and was “the conscience of the neighborhood. He co-founded the Noe Valley Farmers Market to provide healthy food to its residents while supporting local organic farmers and creating a public space that fosters community.”

The farmers market takes place most Saturday mornings in the Noe Valley Town Square. The plaque for Gabel is to be embedded in the sidewalk of the square’s entrance at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

“The neighborhood loved Peter, and everybody stepped up. I really appreciate it,” said Crawford about raising the money needed to pay for the plaque’s production.

She estimated at least \$1,000 was now needed to cover the labor costs and other expenses associated with the plaque’s installation in the spot where Gabel would be found greeting customers to the market.

Donations can be made online via the Arlene Francis Foundation at <https://arlenefranciscenter.org/> and should be earmarked for “Noe.”

—Matthew S. Bajko

ducing the show.

It’s not just James Lick students, of whom there are 20 on stage and at least six behind the scenes. “Up to six other middle school and high school students are part of the Running Crew,” working on production, says Carames.

Carames is determined to revive live theatrical productions at James Lick. To that end, he has secured SFUSD funding for the \$5 million in repairs that will bring the theater back to life. “It will be a 21st-century theater with brand new lighting, sound, and acoustics,” he says. He plans a spectacular return in 2025.

*Shrek the Musical Jr.* will be performed at Brava on Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 20, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets, which are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, are available under Events at [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org). Book your seats soon, as the show is likely to sell out. ■

## SHORT TAKES

### It’s Time for a Wine Walk

As the spring comes upon us and the evening light beckons us outside, it’s the perfect time to drink wine, shop, and support your local merchants in their effort to sponsor a James Lick School field trip and keep the decorative lights going along 24th Street.

The Noe Valley Spring Wine Walk, sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, takes place Thursday, April 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., at over 20 local businesses along 24th Street between Church and Castro streets.

Pick up a signature glass for \$35 at the Noe Valley Town Square and ramble through the hood, sipping and tasting little bites. Participating merchants—look for Wine Walk banners—have discounts on offer, and you can finish the evening at one of our local restaurants, serving dinner specials.

Four bands ranging from Cuban to classical—the Guajirón, Hyesoo Chae, Alie Hallah, and Just Friends—will play through the evening along the sidewalk. (The music comes courtesy of the Noe Valley Association, 24th Street’s special benefit district and a co-sponsor of the event.)

Rachel Swann, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, describes the walk as “a taste of wine country in Noe Valley. Over 500 people [came out] in November for our first wine walk post Covid. There was such good energy from visitors and merchants.”

More information and a link to tickets are available on the group’s website at [NVMPA.com](http://NVMPA.com). Or you can buy

them at the Town Square, when you collect your wine glass.

### Volunteer in a Garden

Members of Friends of Noe Valley are excitedly planning this year’s Noe Valley Garden Tour, to take place on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. So far, co-organizers Peggy Cling and Linda Lockyer have lined up nine gardens, “including a huge vegetable garden, a garden with a beehive and local honey, and a peaceful Zen garden with tactile art,” says Cling.

They also are planning a Plant Swap, to be held on Sanchez Street near Noe Cafe.

You can buy tour tickets starting April 27 at the Saturday Farmers Market at the Noe Valley Town Square, at businesses along 24th Street, or at the Friends website, [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com).

In addition, the organizers are looking for volunteers to sit at one of the gardens for a two-hour shift during the event. That will entitle you to a free ticket for the day. To sign up as a garden greeter, email Lockyer at [LindaLockyer3@gmail.com](mailto:LindaLockyer3@gmail.com).

### Annual Fair Oaks Street Fair

If you are looking for anything from a velvet couch to a sake cup, head on down to Fair Oaks, that piece of Baja Noe Valley below Dolores Street, between 21st and 26th streets, for the annual Five Block Long Garage Sale. It’s one day only, Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. And no charge to stroll or buy. Who knows what treasure you will find.

—Kit Cameron



## What's in Your Earthquake Kit?

Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

The San Francisco Fire Department and its sidekick, the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT), have warned us that after a major earthquake, our water or electricity could be cut off for a few days to a week. So it's smart to put together a quake kit or "go bag" with enough supplies to manage on our own. See suggestions below.

It's also a good idea to learn safety skills in a NERT training. You can get on the waiting list for a six-week training at the SF-fire.org website or sign up to be a mock victim at NERT events on Eventbrite.com. For information, call the SFFD at 415-970-2024.



**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, such as canned or dried soups, beans, juice.

**Cooking Supplies:** A grill or camp stove, utensils, matches, can opener, foil, plastic wrap, garbage bags.



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

**Safety:** Flashlight, radio, batteries, rope, knife, scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench to shut off utilities.



**Supplies** such as cash, house or car keys, pencil and paper, i.d. cards, insurance info, maps.

**Hygiene:** Waterless soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, sanitary supplies.



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

**Shelter:** Tent, sleeping bags.

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



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

### Checklist for the 'Go Bag'

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

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

## UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



**Ready to Swing:** San Francisco Youth Baseball League's Knights and Hawks face off during an action-packed game at Upper Noe in March. Photo by Chris Faust

### Time for Pickleball and Tot Soccer

Spring Session classes are sprinting through April and May at Upper Noe Recreation Center and the field known as Day Street Park. Whether or not you have signed up for a class, you can enjoy the center in myriad ways. You can drop in for Open Gym weekday afternoons and evenings and all day on Saturday. Or register for free activities like volleyball, pickleball, and Zumba. View the schedule below or at [www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com). At the website, you can see how to create a Rec and Park account or learn how to register for classes with a Play Pass. For information on creating your account, call 415-831-6800.

Chris Faust of Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center says we all can help keep the park clean. If you see something that needs maintenance, contact San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1) by phone, web, or the phone app. Park personnel rely on our 3-1-1 reports to respond to service requests. For more information, call the office at 415-970-8061. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org).

### Upper Noe Spring Session (March 19 to May 25, 2024)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:30 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  
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)  
6 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 18+)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

#### 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)  
4 to 4:45 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 6-8)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 9-12)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 10-12)

#### Thursday

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
12 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—Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 18+)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

#### Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE  
10 to 11 a.m. Tot Soccer  
0 to 1:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)  
2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4 to 5 p.m. Volleyball League (ages 8-10)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5 to 6 p.m. Volleyball League (ages 11-14)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 10-12)  
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Teen Open Volleyball (ages 12-17)

#### Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE

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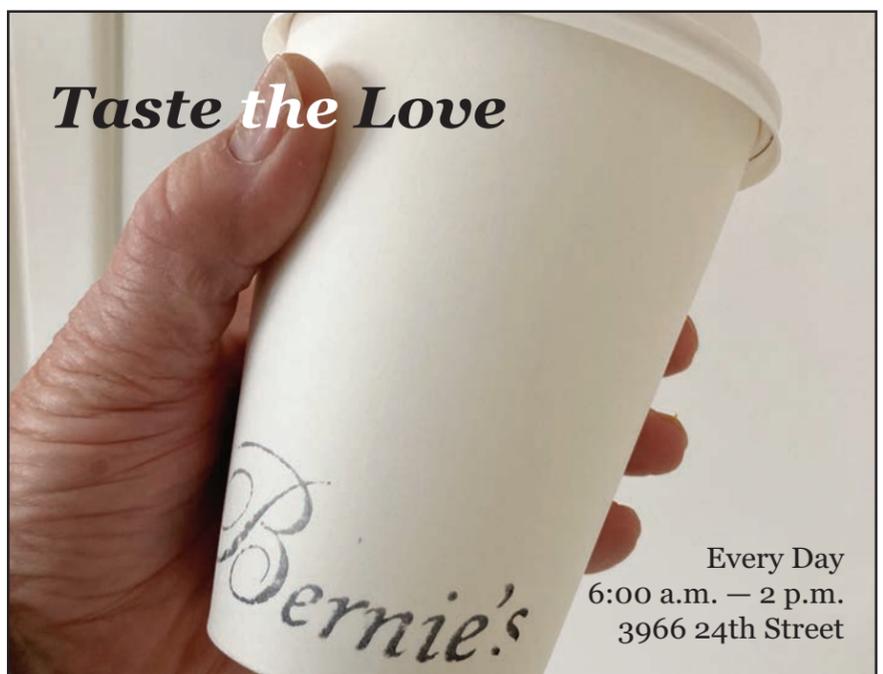


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# STORE TREK

*Store Trek is a regular Voice feature, profiling stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we spotlight a restaurant that is the creation of a chef with both international and Michelin star experience.*

## BISTRO EMBER

1298 Church Street at 25th Street  
415-655-9265  
<https://bistroember.com/>

When Turkish-inspired Bistro Ember opened last June at 1298 Church St., on the corner of 25th Street, it did so with dinner-only service. Three months ago, it added weekday lunch and weekend brunch hours to attract more business.

The menus for both feature unique dishes inspired by the farm-fresh food that chef-owner Deniz Sezer grew up eating in Turkey, as well as the sophisticated Mediterranean cuisine he explored in his later career.

A highlight of the brunch menu is the traditional Turkish breakfast for two (\$40). It includes scrambled eggs with Turkish beef sausage, flatbread, and Ember potatoes, along with accompaniments like feta cheese, cucumbers, marinated olives, and muammara, a spicy dip made of walnuts, red bell peppers, and pomegranate molasses.

Another dish not often found on American breakfast menus is cilbir, made with two eggs over easy on toasted bazlama bread with yogurt and burnt mint oil, with side salad and potatoes (\$15.95). Add-ons include avocado (\$2), smoked salmon (\$4), or ham, bacon, or Turkish beef sausage (\$3).

The Kadaifi green salad (\$16) is made with fresh greens, quinoa, feta cheese, pistachio, and buttermilk dressing. You can complement the dish with grilled chicken or salmon for \$8 or \$12, respectively.

More traditional breakfast items on the menu include smoked salmon toast, served with a secret sauce, tomato, and mashed avocado (\$16.95), or a breakfast sandwich made with two eggs over easy, cheddar cheese, baby arugula, and secret sauce on brioche bun (\$16.95).

“We are trying to cook more healthy foods and not like deep-fried stuff,” said Sezer.

As for the lunch menu, there is a meze platter (\$24) with muammara, antep ezme (a Turkish tomato salad), masabacha hummus, and mint cacik, a creamy yogurt with cucumber, mint, and garlic. A homemade fettuccine pasta (\$28) comes with grilled chicken thighs, feta cheese, and pistachio pesto.

Also among the options in March were a burger (\$22), a roast chicken sandwich (\$18), and a spring risotto made with wild mushrooms, grilled asparagus, and a balsamic fig glaze (\$22).

Throughout the year, Sezer changes the menu based on what he finds at the



On a Friday evening in March, diners sampled the unique blend of Mediterranean, Turkish, and American cuisine offered at Bistro Ember on Church Street. Due to customer demand, the restaurant is now open for lunch or brunch Wednesday through Sunday. Photo by Art Bodner

farmers markets in Noe Valley and near where he lives in the Outer Richmond. (He is in the process of moving to El Cerrito in the East Bay.)

“Every season, we are trying to change dishes with seasonal ingredients. We just changed the dinner menu, and are changing the lunch and brunch menus, because of the ingredients I am finding now,” Sezer told the *Voice* in mid-March.

Sezer grew up in Izmir, Turkey, and graduated from a culinary high school. He interned in the kitchens of luxury hotels and spent two years as a private chef on a luxury yacht that sailed throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. He also enrolled in the gastronomy and culinary arts program at Pamukkale University in Turkey and went to work at the Michelin star restaurant La Cabra in Madrid, Spain. Sezer would go on to work at another Michelin star restaurant, Queque Dacosta, in Valencia, Spain.

After finishing university, he was hired by Macakizi Restaurant, one of the best in Turkey. He moved to San Francisco in 2019 to work for chef Alex Hong at Hong’s Pacific Heights restaurant Sorrel. Two years later, Sezer left to work as a private chef, traveling across the U.S. cooking for more than 200 families.

He returned to San Francisco to open Bistro Ember in partnership with local restaurateur Giorgio Yesilyurt with a menu that draws from his family’s cooking traditions.

“We are a farmer family and cooked our meals on a wood fire, giving the food a special taste,” Sezer told the *Voice* last year.

He also noted that he had been walking in Noe Valley one day when he spotted the restaurant space for lease on Church Street, which had been home to Inle Burmese Cuisine.

With the eatery located a little off the

beaten path of 24th Street, Sezer said it had been a challenge to get the news out about the eatery’s expanded times and menu options. He just hired someone to boost Bistro Ember’s presence on social media.

And Sezer is rolling out special happy hour offers and other discounts to help draw in more customers. He said he aims in April to add tables on the sidewalk fronting the building’s 25th Street façade.

The outdoor seating, Sezer hopes, will serve as a welcome sign to

passersby.

“Right now, it is slow because we don’t have space outside,” said Sezer. “We are also still pretty new to the neighborhood, so people still don’t know about us yet.”

Bistro Ember is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m., and until 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Lunch hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Brunch is served 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

—Matthew S. Bajko



## OMNIVORE BOOKS APRIL EVENTS

WED APR 3	DARRA GOLDSTEIN, CORTNEY BURNS & RICHARD MARTIN • PRESERVED: FRUIT & PRESERVED: CONDIMENTS • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
WED APR 10	LIDEY HEUCK IN CONVERSATION WITH CALEB PERSHAN • COOKING IN REAL LIFE: DELICIOUS & DOABLE RECIPES FOR EVERY DAY • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
WED APR 17	MICAH SIVA IN CONVERSATION WITH FAITH KRAMER • NOSH: PLANT FORWARD RECIPES CELEBRATING MODERN JEWISH CUISINE • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
THURS APR 18	ROSA JACKSON IN CONVERSATION WITH KATE LEAHY • NIÇOISE: MARKET-INSPIRED COOKING FROM FRANCE'S SUNNIEST CITY • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
FRI APR 19	OFFSITE EVENT AT THE JCCSF! SHABBAT DINNER IN CELEBRATION OF MICAH SIVA'S NOSH • 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. TICKETS & INFO: JCCSF.ORG
SUN APR 21	ALEXANDRA STAFFORD IN CONVERSATION WITH TOM MCNAUGHTON • PIZZA NIGHT: DELICIOUSLY DOABLE RECIPES FOR PIZZA & SALAD • 3:00 P.M. FREE!
MON APR 22	JESS DAMUCK IN CONVERSATION WITH CAROLINE CHAMBERS • HEALTH NUT: A FEEL-GOOD COOKBOOK • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
THURS APR 25	YASMINE OSTENDORF-RODRÍGUEZ • LET'S BECOME FUNGAL!: MYCELIUM TEACHINGS AND THE ARTS • WITH WINE FROM SUBJECT TO CHANGE WINE CO. • 6:30 P.M. FREE!
SUN APR 28	OFFSITE EVENT! SPORKFUL LIVE: ANYTHING'S PASTABLE WITH DAN PASHMAN & SAM SANDERS • 7:00 P.M. TICKETS & INFO: CAFEDUNORD.COM

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**April 1-30:** Email to volunteer at the Friends of Noe Valley's Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR, on Saturday, May 18, 10 am to 4 pm. Email lindalockyer3@gmail.com

**April 1-June 1:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibits a group show of art based on music, "The Record Store." Thurs. & Fri., 3-6 pm, Sat. noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org

**April 3:** Create a FELT CRAFT item at the Noe Valley Library; materials provided. 3-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 3-May 18:** CHUNG 24 Gallery shows "Remember Me," photographs by Preston Gannaway, who discusses his work on April 4, from 6 to 7 pm. Wed.-Sat. 1:30-6 pm. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

**April 4, 11, 18 & 25:** The Noe Valley Library hosts Family STORYTIMES on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am. Space is limited to 20 children. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 4, 11, 18 & 25:** The BAR on Dolores hosts open-mike COMEDY on Thursdays, presented by Mutiny Radio. 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

**April 5 & May 3:** The self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses, on the first Friday of the month. 5-8 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

**April 5 & May 3:** First Friday COMEDY NIGHT at the Dubliner is hosted by Joe Gleckler. 8-9:30 pm. Dubliner, 3838 24th. 826-2279; gleckler.joe@gmail.com

**April 6:** The Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE meets from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 6:** Ranger Fatima gives a NATURE presentation on the plants and animals of the Presidio. 1-2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 6, 13, 20 & 27:** The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET features fresh produce, treats, music, and fun, Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. NV Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**April 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Stroll local streets with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez, 10 am.

# APRIL CALENDAR

**April 7:** ACTION SF's monthly meeting begins at 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. action-sf.com

**April 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own mat and water. Post Yoga HAPPY HOUR with Martha's coffee and treats on April 14. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**April 7 & 28:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS in the Town Square features Richard Southwick on the 7th, and Projecto Novo on the 28th. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**April 8:** Solar ECLIPSE, 10:14 am-12:15 pm. Be careful; don't look at it directly.

**April 8:** Get drop-in TECH HELP from the library staff at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 9:** The Noe Valley Library hosts FAMILY LEGO and Board Games Night. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 9, 16, 23 & 30; May 7:** SFPL and the SF OPERA lead a writing workshop, "The Opera in You." 3-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; Registration required: sfpl.org

**April 10, 17 & 25:** Omnivore Books welcomes CHEF authors Lidey Heuck (*Cooking in Real Life*) April 10, 6:30 pm; Micah Siva (*Plant-Forward Recipes Celebrating Modern Jewish Cuisine*) April 17, 6:30 pm; and Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodriguez (*Let's Become Fungall*) April 25, 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

**April 11:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on second Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**April 12-14:** The 21st International OCEAN FILM FEST includes 34 films from 13 countries. Cowell Theatre Fort Mason. intioceanfilmfest.org

**April 13:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a demonstration of Ebru, the Turkish art of MARBLING PAPER. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 13:** SF Civic Music offers a free CONCERT, "An Afternoon of Chamber Music." 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; sfvivicmusic.org

**April 13:** The Pamela Rose ORGAN QUARTET, featuring Wayne de la Cruz, performs at Bird & Beckett. 7:30-9:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**April 14:** NOE MUSIC hosts a performance by Nomad Session with Jeff Anderle. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**April 16:** Mission Library's BOOK CLUB en Español discusses *Mis Documentos*, by Alejandro Zambra. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 17:** Noe Valley Library's BOOK CLUB discusses *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, by Olga Tokarczuk. 6:30-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 18:** The Noe Valley Spring WINE WALK starts at the Town Square and runs from 4 to 8 pm. Tickets at www.nvmpa.com

**April 19-21:** Students from James Lick Middle School perform *Shrek the Musical Jr.* Fri. & Sat. 7 pm, Sat. & Sun. 2 pm. Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th. brava.org

**April 20:** BUG DAY at the Randall Museum Bug Costume Contest. 10 am-2 pm. 199 Museum. randallmuseum.org

**April 20:** SF Chamber Orchestra plays a Sensory Friendly Family CONCERT for the neurodiverse community. 11 to 11:45 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

**April 20:** Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**April 20:** Rob Thomson from the Victorian Alliance leads a discussion about Noe Valley VICTORIANS. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 21:** Celebrate the installation of the new bathroom in the Noe Valley Town Square, at the TOILET BOWL, 1 to 3:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**April 22:** Write a LOVE LETTER to Mother Earth at the Noe Valley Library. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 25:** SFSU All-Stars perform a multi-genre CONCERT, "Sundered Sound." 7:30-9:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**April 27:** SFUSD's free citywide Youth Arts FESTIVAL offers exhibits, performances, and activities in 8 venues, including Mission Cultural Center. 10 am-4 pm. sfusd.edu

**April 27:** City Guides leads a WALKING TOUR of the neighborhood, "Village Within a City." 2-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 28:** Write your name in Arabic for the Community Name QUILT at a reading of Aya Khalil's *The Arabic Quilt*. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 28:** MUSIC ON THE HILL hosts a concert of Brahms, Mozart, and Seyfried by Ensemble San Francisco. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org

**April 29:** Create BEE HOTELS and seed balls at a Noe Valley Library workshop. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**April 30:** PJ STORYTIME for children and their families runs from 6:30 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 2 & 9:** The 2024 SF International Arts Festival features MUSICIANS performing at El Rio, including Noe folksinger Rachel Garlin. 3158 Mission. 399-9554; sfiarf.org

**May 4:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a STAR WARS PARTY, from 1:30-2:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**May 11:** The annual Fair Oaks Street GARAGE SALE takes place over five blocks, between 21st and 26th, from 9 am to 4 pm.

**May 11:** Noe Valley Pet Company holds its 25th anniversary PARTY with free treats for all. 1-3 pm. 1451 Church. 282-7385.

**April is Upon Us:** The next *Voice* will be the May 2024 issue, distributed the first week of May. The deadline for calendar items is April 20. But please email anytime: calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.



# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Action SF**

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/  
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/  
 Email or link: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com  
 Meetings usually first Sundays, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley**

Contact: 834-9940  
 Website: al-anonsf.org  
 Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.  
 St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street)

**Castro Merchants**

Contacts: Masood Samereie, President;  
 Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245  
 Email: Dave@mx3fitness.com  
 Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114  
 Meetings: Email info@CastroMerchants.com

**Comerford Greenway**

Contact: Howard Fallon  
 Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com  
 Website: www.sanfranciscoparksalliance.org/partners/comerford-greenway/  
 Monthly workdays in Comerford Alley.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774  
 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131  
 Website: www.dhcasf.org. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: info@doloresheights.org  
 Website: www.doloresheights.org  
 Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;  
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Lili Wu, 647-0235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

Website: https://evna.org  
 Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114  
 Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org  
 Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110  
 The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

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

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

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

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

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

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

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

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

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

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel  
 Email: info@SlowSanchez.com  
 Website: SlowSanchez.com

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

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

**Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDG)**

Contact: David Emanuel  
 Email: info@fundogsf.org  
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

**Glen Park Association**

Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org  
 Website: glenparkassociation.org  
 Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

**Juri Commoners**

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290  
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org  
 Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners  
 The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president  
 Email: efromer3@gmail.com  
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe  
 Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.  
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org  
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org  
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President  
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com  
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org  
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

**Noe Valley Farmers Market**

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
 Meetings: Usually last Thursdays, Doggy

Style, 3927 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.  
 Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

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

**Noe Walks**

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

**Progress Noe Valley**

Facebook: ProgressNoeValley  
 Email: progressnoe@gmail.com  
 Website: progressnoe.com  
 Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Resilient Noe Valley**

Contact: Antoinette  
 Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com  
 Newsletter: http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5  
 Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

**San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)**

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole\_roberts@faludi.com  
 Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert  
 Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

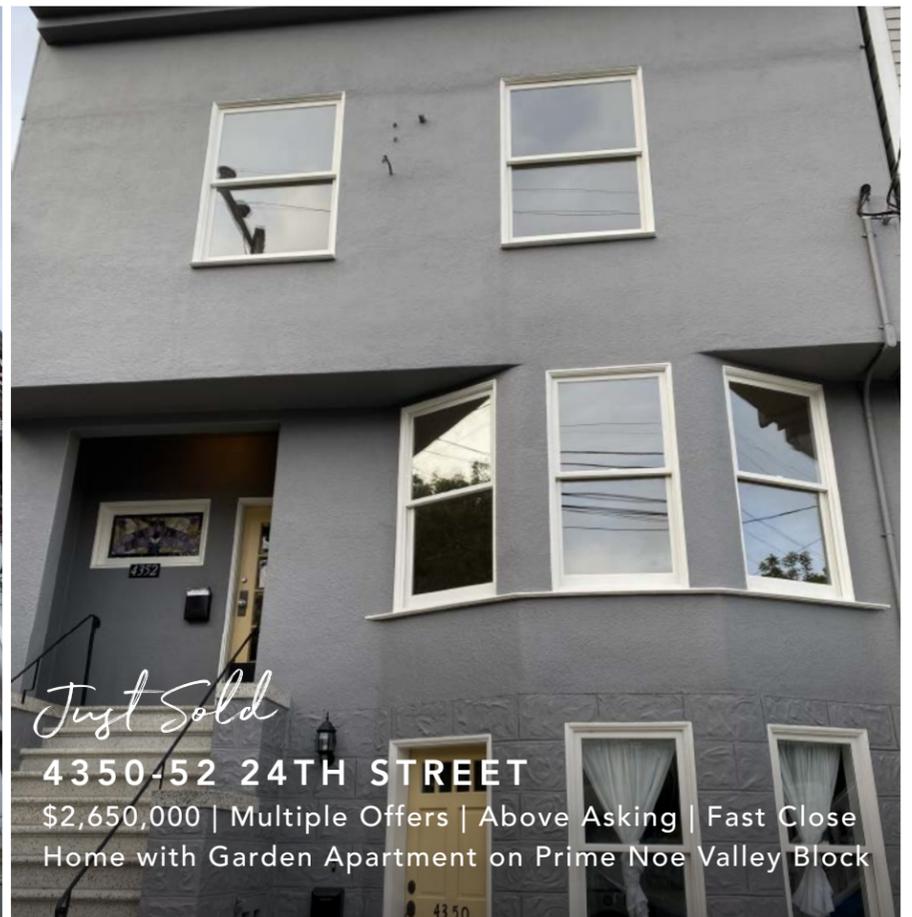
Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com  
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm by email or check website.

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



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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Poll Dancing

By Mazook

#### EXERCISING OUR FRANCHISE:

Election results in Noe Valley, from the San Francisco Department of Elections for the March 5 Primary Election show the neighborhood's voter turnout was one of the highest in San Francisco.

Of the 15,836 registered voters in Noe Valley, 9,435 cast ballots, for a 59.6% turnout. As usual, we were just a tad behind Castro/Upper Market (60.3%), Glen Park (61.5%), and Sea Cliff (62.3%).

Citywide, the turnout was 46.6% (233,465 of 500,856 registered voters).

In the presidential primary, of the 6,882 registered Democrats in Noe, an overwhelming number, almost 92.8%, voted for incumbent President Joseph Biden. A distant second place went to Dean Phillips (incidentally, my first cousin, once removed), who captured 3.3%, and behind him was Marianne Williamson with just below 3% of the Noe vote.

On the GOP side, there were 378 ballots cast by our neighborhood's pool of 693 registered Republicans. Of those votes, Donald Trump managed to get less than half (181, or 47.9%), with Nikki Haley a close second (171). Noteworthy were the 27 voters in our neighborhood registered as members of the American Independent Party. We also had 20 Libertarians, 19 Green Party folks, and 17 voting for Peace and Freedom.



**NAME RECOGNITION:** Looking at those Democrats vying to run for U.S. Senate in November, the top vote-getters were Adam Schiff with 38%, Katie Porter with 31%, and Barbara Lee with 27%.

Also at stake were the remaining months of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein's term, with the outcome in the race in approximately the same percentages, making Schiff the winner, in Noe Valley and California. The only viable Republican running for Senate got 432 Noe votes.

Democrat Nancy Pelosi received 84% of the Noe vote to secure her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Most votes for State Senator went to Scott Wiener (86%). The vote for State Assembly went 90% for Democrat Matt Haney.

State Proposition 1, authorizing \$6.8 billion to build mental health treatment facilities and provide housing for homeless people, narrowly won statewide, but carried emphatically in Noe Valley, with 81% of our votes in the yes column.



**YEAS AND NAYS:** Then there are the Noe votes on San Francisco measures. Measure A (affordable housing bonds) got a 78% yes vote. Measure B (setting a minimum of SFPD levels) failed with 78% no votes. Measure C (convert vacant offices to housing) passed with 58% saying yes. Measure D (restricting gifts city employees may

accept) passed overwhelmingly (91%).

Measure E (allowing the SFPD to use cameras and drones) failed in Noe Valley by a 51 to 49% margin, but it won citywide, with 54% saying yes. Measure F (drug or alcohol treatment prescribed for those under 65 with no children receiving public assistance) passed with 53% in favor in Noe.

And finally, Measure G, encouraging SF schools to offer algebra to eighth-grade students, passed with 81% approval. If my math is right.



**IN OUR BUBBLE:** Carrie Barnes, president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, won a seat on the DCCC, the Democratic County Central Committee, Assembly District 17. A resident of Homestead Street, Barnes got 30,628 votes to place 11th among the 14 winners. Unfortunately, Vicksburg Street resident Laurance Lee did not make the cut. He picked up 28,384 votes, though, to come in 19th place. Congrats.



**THE MARCH SURPRISE:** On March 20, Birch & Rye sent out a press release stating that the much-acclaimed restaurant at 1320 Castro St. would serve its last dinner on March 30.

Chef Anya El-Wattar had made the decision to end its two-year run, the press release said, "after careful consideration. We wanted to present a new and elevated lens on Russian cuisine. Doing so required working with labor-intensive techniques and using premium ingredients, which made it challenging to keep this concept affordable for the neighborhood," explained El-Wattar. "We made so many of our dishes from scratch, from the rye bread and cultured butter to the smoked fish and fermented vegetables, to our line of vodka infusions. Ultimately, it was unsustainable to devote this much attention to production, but we were not willing to compromise on quality."

The restaurant received a lot of favorable attention when it first opened in February 2022. El-Wattar was honored as Eater SF's Chef of the Year in 2022. It was the only Russian restaurant in the U.S. featured in the Michelin Guide and was a James Beard Foundation (JBF) semifinalist for Best New Restaurant in 2023. Birch & Rye hosted fundraisers, including a dinner with Dominique Crenn and Traci Des Jardins that raised over \$100,000 to support World Central Kitchen.

In a feature in the November 2023 *Voice*, El-Wattar told writer Matthew Bajko her Noe Valley neighbors had told her "prices [at Birch & Rye] were on the higher end, and they considered us a special occasion restaurant. At the same time, the same neighbors were saying, 'We love the food. We love your restaurant. It is just a little bit out of our reach.'"

El-Wattar added brunch and lowered her prices. But the changes may have come too late.

Other restaurateurs in the neighborhood might learn from Birch & Rye's experience and put less expensive items on their menus.

According to the press release, El-Wattar "plans on pursuing new culinary projects, and will announce those as they crystallize."



**TIDBITS, NIBBLES & BITES:** The

folks who took over the restaurant at 4166 24th St. two months ago and renamed it Noe Indian Cuisine have created their own menu and expanded the eatery's hours to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Manager and co-owner Amrit Bastola says many diners in Noe "may find us open when all the other restaurants close their kitchens at nine. We will serve them later if they come in or order by phone as late as 10. We will keep the kitchen and dining room open so they won't have to rush." He says the restaurant will offer free home delivery for orders of at least \$25, to those who live within three miles.

They took over Indreni Indian Kitchen, which lasted at that location for about a year. "We wanted to make the name easier to remember or the neighborhood," says Bastola.

The menu focuses on North Indian and Himalayan cuisine. The three most popular dishes, he says, are Everest Chicken Momo, prepared with shredded ground chicken and Himalayan spices in a pastry that's steamed; Chicken Tikka Masala, cooked in a creamy tomato and onion sauce; and Rajasthani Goat Curry, which is bone-in goat cubes cooked in spices imported from Rajasthan, India. The last one, he says, you will most likely not be able to find on any other Indian restaurant menu in the Bay Area.

"We are very happy that we are now seeing many repeat customers," Bastola says.

The new Dumpling Kitchen at 3913 24th St. held a soft opening on March 25. Shari Dominici (owner of Bacco, which closed in January) teamed up with Michael Shao, owner of the Chinese restaurant chain, to open the third location in the city (plus two more in the Bay Area).

The lovely Memento SF at 1305 Castro St. began serving brunch in late March on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"We are finally making it happen, and we can't be more excited," says Suhair Nimri, who with chef husband Rafael Da Silva opened the restaurant last July. Nimri says specials on the brunch menu include flank steak and egg with chimichurri sauce, an egg soufflé muffin with salad, and a squid-ink risotto with mussels. "The wonderful thing is that we're open earlier than most brunches, 10 a.m.," says Nimri.

Todo el Día is expected to open soon at 4063 24th. It's a new eatery from Tacolicious co-owner Joe Hargrave that will feature rotisserie chicken and tortas, which are meat-filled Mexican sandwiches. He says he chose the name, which means "all day" in Spanish, since the restaurant will be open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Lunch will start at 11 a.m. and feature four tortas, four tacos, and four salads, plus the chicken.

We are all waiting for Peruvian restaurant Fresca to reopen their long-shuttered space at 3945 24th. The restaurant had announced last October it was giving the Noe Valley location a complete makeover after deciding to close its Inner Sunset restaurant, and they were supposed to open here in March, which has come and gone.

Diners also await Fiorella Italian Restaurant, which took over the defunct Patxi's Pizza location at 4042 24th. "We hope to open by mid-May," said Fiorella chef Brandon Gillis.

Interestingly, according to the sign on the front window, "You are invited

to invest in our new Noe location and earn 10.5% returns." Food for thought.



**WE HAD FUN:** The neighborhood has sadly lost Mapamundi Kids, which sold artisanal toys and clothing at 1306 Castro St. Owner Terra Andrews sent a poignant message to customers in December: "We know this is a huge announcement, so please bear with us while we sort through all of our emotions...."

"I'm usually in the full holiday spirit at this point in the year but finding it hard to focus. It's supposed to be our busiest time, but sales are down and have been all year. In fact, it's the worst year on record in TEN years, and I just can't keep trying to make it work anymore. The stress of doing so has negatively impacted my health, both physically and emotionally, as well as my relationships with family and friends. I've been kept up at night trying to come up with new ways to increase sales and encourage shopping, but unfortunately, my efforts don't seem to be working. I know it's the same story for so many small businesses out there. I see you.

"Our little shop has survived a global pandemic, multiple natural disasters in Northern California like wildfires, a winter that brought unprecedented amounts of rain, a day where the sun didn't shine (remember Orange Skies Day?), all of which negatively impacted our business. Coupled with a year of slow sales, the shop just isn't supporting itself anymore.

"Thank you all for being a part of the story of Mapamundi Kids. Hope to see you soon." The shop closed its doors in at the end of January.



**CALLING ALL DOGS:** The doors opened the last week of March at Noe Valley Dog Daycare, in what used to be a dental office at 4162 24th St. The daycare is the enterprise of longtime local resident Garo Eldemir and his blue heeler/Australian shepherd mix named Beyla.

During the last week in March, Eldemir invited "anyone interested to come in with their dog to look around and introduce themselves," he says. "Beyla will conduct all the interviews of the dogs, so she can make sure that all the dogs have a calm temperament and are kind, calm, and friendly."

Eldemir says the doors will open at 7 a.m. and close at 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and that the fee is \$75 dollars a day. "But we will offer discounted packages for multiple days." He says he is planning a Yappy Hour early on Friday evenings once a month "for the dogs and owners to socialize."

As a footnote, Eldemir's mom, Dr. Kira Eldemir, DDS, had her dental practice in that space from 1978 to 1988. Garo says he would come over after school "and help mom out," which is when he fell in love with Noe Valley. "This is the best neighborhood in the city, and I am so happy that I can live here."



**THAT'S ALL, FOLKS.** Oops, there's one last thing: Urban Angels SF, located in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center, is working to raise \$40,000 by April 30 to fund tutoring in reading for 100 children in K to fourth grade. To donate, go to UrbanAngelsSF.org or call Nelson Barry at 415-518-0075. ■



GET AHEAD OF SPRING AND ASK US ABOUT OUR LIST OF RESIDENCES THAT ARE COMING SOON!

**1126 SANCHEZ ESTATE — MODERN, CONTEMPORARY PENTHOUSE AND THREE-RESIDENCE CONDOMINIUM ESTATE IN THE HEART OF NOE VALLEY**



**1126 Sanchez St. | Noe Valley**

**PENTHOUSE & 3 CONDOS | \$1,000,000 - \$7,750,000**

Welcome to the Sanchez, a fully renovated, modern, four-residence condominium estate in the Heart of Noe Valley. The Sanchez renders a perfect balance of comfort and entertainment in this ultra modern residence —

**PENTHOUSE**

Presenting, The Penthouse: a masterpiece in contemporary, modern elegance — featuring 3+ bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. This stunning residence boasts a spacious open layout and floor-to-ceiling glass pocket slider door. It seamlessly reveals the natural beauty of Noe Valley, like a perfectly framed portrait. Relax in the open living and dining area where an inviting deck invites you to bask in Noe’s sunny weather and mesmerizing sunsets. For cooler nights, the living area is further enhanced by a design-forward Ortal frameless gas fireplace and state-of-the-art radiant heating. A luxury gourmet chef’s kitchen outfitted with Calacatta Oro countertops, bespoke white cabinets, a Thermador gas stove, a wine refrigerator, and a comprehensive suite of Miele appliances: a built-in espresso machine and microwave convection oven make for the most sophisticated culinary creations. Enhancing the home’s natural elegance — skylights positioned above the staircase flood the interiors with natural light — while a glass panel staircase and a multi-light clear glass pendant guide you to the downstairs bedroom suites. A glass balcony overlooks a landscaped yard and a spa-like ensuite bath makes the primary bedroom a relaxing retreat. All bedrooms boast custom closet systems and Hunter Douglass window treatment.

For those with a vision of an outdoor expansion, the residence accommodates the addition of a roof deck — due to the strategic reinforcement of triple-sistered ceiling joists and a massive steel beam! The Penthouse is a statement of unparalleled luxury and sophisticated lifestyle for the discerning buyer.

An adjoining third-level flat, spanning approximately 933 square feet, presents a unique opportunity for acquisition alongside The Penthouse. This additional residence opens up many possibilities and utilization: exclusive guest quarters, a family room, an inspiring art studio, a state-of-the-art gym, a wine room, or a home office. The possibilities are endless! This versatile offering features a one-bedroom, one-bathroom, spacious living area, a stunning wood kitchenette, laundry amenity, and a deeded backyard. Exclusive access through a private entrance on the lower level and seamless connection through The Penthouse. One car parking included.

**FRONT CONDOS:**

A city pied-a-terre or a full-time residence — two one-bedroom, one-bath flats blend classic San Francisco architecture charm and modern elegance. Large expansive windows in the living room and bedroom bathe the rooms in natural light. Professional-grade appliances, custom modern cabinetry and countertops, and banquette dining areas provide a sophisticated culinary experience. Indulge in luxury upgrades of custom closet system, Hunter Douglas window treatments, and full-size washer and dryer. Tandem parking is available for each flat.

Situated in the heart of Noe Valley, at the foot of Sanchez’s slow street, make this an ideal location for all. Moments from Noe Valley Town Square, restaurants, cafes, boutiques, and transportation make this an ideal location.

**\$2 MILLION QUESTION: IS A PARKING GARAGE OVERRATED?**

Is it worth spending an extra \$2 million on a residence with a parking space?

This entertainer’s oasis boasts modern architecture, panoramic views, incredible ceiling height and luxury indoor/outdoor living. The generous glass-lined great room has a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access. Sunrises and sunsets are truly incredible from this vantage point! The kitchen is the heart of it all and flows seamlessly to the living and dining areas, and features built-in luxury appliances. The den has pocket doors that convert the room to a guest bedroom for extra guests. A full bath completes this amazing living level. The bedroom level boasts three bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, and private exterior entrance. The opulent primary suite extends over the full width of the residence and features a relaxing ensuite bathroom and a generous deck. The lower level has a spacious media lounge, glass wine vault, two additional bedrooms and baths, and direct access to the backyard. No Garage — Street Parking only. Located a few blocks to coveted Noe Valley’s bustling 24th Street, parks and shops!



**4258 26th St. | Noe Valley**

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

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