

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Neighbors Try to Find Help for Homeless Friend

Shelter Elusive for Longtime Street Person

By Corrie M. Anders

His name is Glen Evans. He's been a lost soul for years, shuffling along 24th Street with a two-wheeled cart crammed with all his worldly possessions. His regular routine takes him from sidewalk and park benches during the day to a cold concrete mattress at night.

"I'm not proud to be homeless," says Evans. "It's just the way it is right now."

Evans says he is somewhere in his 60s, but a stooped back and a dingy gray full beard make him look much older. The *Voice* talked with Evans as he rested on a bench near the public parking lot next to Radio Shack. On an unseasonably warm day in mid-January, he was wearing an orange knit cap, an orange puffy jacket, dark slacks, brown sandals, and thick white socks. His breathing appeared labored.

His is such a perilous existence that several concerned Noe Valley residents and merchants took it upon themselves to find help last fall. They enlisted the aid of a psychiatric social worker and the city's top homeless executive, but their efforts to get Evans off the street have so far come up empty.

"We are aware of Mr. Evans," says Bevan Dufty, the mayor's director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships, and Engagement (HOPE). Residents and merchants, Dufty says, have shown "genuine concern and compassion" toward Evans, who has been "a part of the Noe Valley community for a very long time—and people want to see him safe and healthy."

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"All Clear, Dad!" Tim Smith and daughter Quincy make sure they're not observed while leaving markers for the fifth annual Tech Search Party, a scavenger hunt and fundraiser for local schools now in its fifth year. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Ready, Set, Tweet! Tech Scavenger Hunt Begins at Dusk on Feb. 8

By Heather World

This will be the fifth year Tim Smith has pulled together Tech Search Party (TSP), the neighborhood's smart-phone scavenger hunt that raises money for local schools. Which means this will be the fifth year someone tries to bribe his daughter Quincy for answers to the event's enigmatic clues.

"A good amount of people know she helps me hide the answers," says Smith,

who started the hunt when his children attended Alvarado Elementary School, the original TSP beneficiary.

This year's TSP happens Saturday, Feb. 8, beginning at 5:15 p.m., when teams check in at the James Lick Auditorium, 1220 Noe St. At 6 p.m. exactly, each group gets a list of clues that lead to various locations in Noe Valley.

Teams must travel on foot—always together—take a picture of a marker placed at the answer, then email the photo to the contest organizers.

Each year, after kicking off the search with her dad, Quincy takes a seat with her babysitter at Pasta Pomodoro on 24th Street and watches the teams of geeks stream by in search of answers to riddles such as "Home of azrael, metatron & moroni." Answer: "Angel's Market at 1649 Castro Street."

Now in fifth grade, Quincy has been offered ice cream, play dates, and trips to the movies. One year, Team Winoe offered her "anything you want."

"That was ironic because there was a clue at their house, and they failed to find it," Smith says.

"She hasn't given anyone anything, but she does enjoy other people suffering in the same way her dad does," says Smith, whose dry humor makes the TSP blog almost as much fun as the event itself.

Teams cost \$50 for four people and \$75 for up to six, but most of the money is raised through sponsorships from the likes of Google, UrbanSitter, Rocket Science Consulting, and Umpqua Bank. Smith's own public relations firm, Element PR, is another sponsor. Over the years, Smith has raised about \$50,000, all of which strengthens technology programs at participating public schools.

This year, Alvarado, James Lick Mid-



Follow the Yellow Brick Roads: The crosswalk at Church and 24th streets may soon resemble the one at Castro and 24th. Artist's rendering courtesy Jason Su, DPW

City Big on Bulb-Outs at Noe and Castro

Crosswalks to Get Brighter As Sidewalks Get Wider

By Heather World

More bulb-outs and flashier crosswalks could be coming to Noe Valley this fall, as part of the 24th Street Urban Village Plan, a project to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow.

At a community meeting held Jan. 23, city planners vetted a proposal to widen the sidewalk at two bus stops and add two high-visibility crosswalks along 24th Street. "We talk a lot about making our neighborhoods more walkable in this city," said Supervisor Scott Wiener. "These are things we can do to improve that."

Based on feedback from an October meeting, representatives from the Department of Public Works recommended duplicating the yellow-banded, white-brick-patterned crosswalk that now

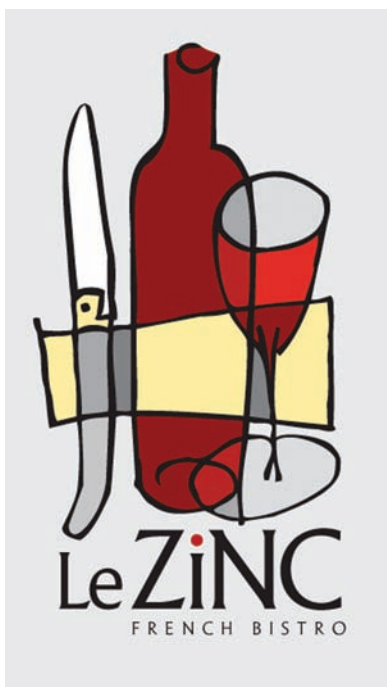


Slow Going. Glen Evans heads west on 24th Street on a sunny day in December. Since last fall, neighborhood friends and shopkeepers have been lobbying the city to find a home for the former Vicksburg Street resident. Photo by Jack Tipple

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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- 10 To keep your contractor honest.
- 9 Architects know where to find all the cool stuff.
- 8 You have better things to do than manage a construction project.
- 7 You like his shoes.
- 6 You have yet to talk to anyone who *really* knows the building code.
- 5 Your spouse has questionable taste and needs professional help.
- 4 It's more fun than therapy.
- 3 Your basement could be worth \$200,000 - if only you could get a building permit.
- 2 So you can tell your friends, "Sorry, can't talk now, I'm in a meeting with *my* architect".
- 1 You'll never know what's possible if you don't.



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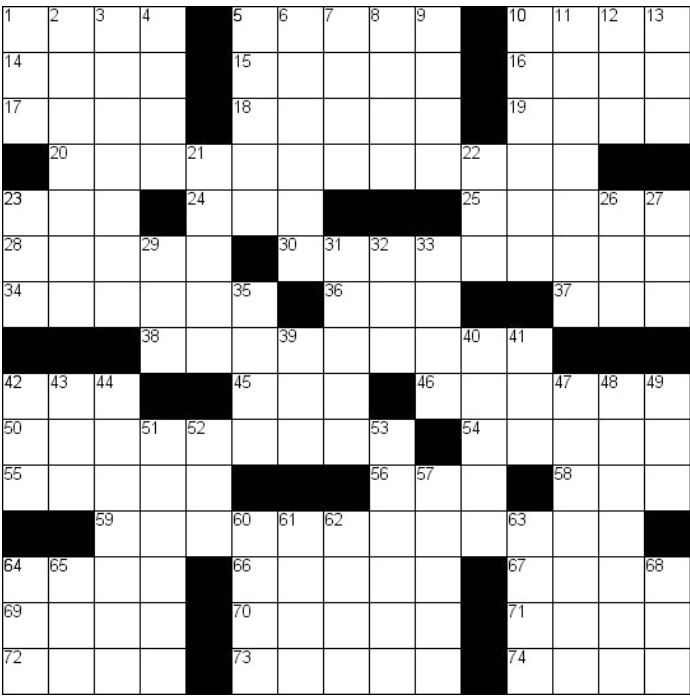
THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Oliver Twist

ACROSS

1. Online help pages, briefly
5. Plunges a knife into
10. Adept
14. Sad
15. Home of Hyundai
16. Internet-based diary
17. "Let's leave ____ that"
18. "Let me restate that"
19. Spilled the beans
20. Without any warning
23. Luau offering
24. Suffix for an adherent
25. Open a bottle of soda
28. Not up to the job
30. With 50-Across, Vicksburg Street shop with 20+ varieties of EVOO. . . and the inspiration for this puzzle

34. Elon Musk's company before Tesla and SpaceX
36. "Xanadu" grp.
37. "Grand" ice cream maker
38. 1950s TV sitcom
42. Brief craze
45. Brimless hat
46. ____ Market on 24th St.
50. See 30-Across
54. Reunion attendees
55. Peets, vis-à-vis Starbucks
56. Coffee vessel
58. Word before horse or green
59. Request at Noe's for a third martini? (But no twist!)
64. Drive-____ window
66. Consumed
67. Passing remarks?
69. Hamano sushi ingredient
70. Actor John of *The*



Addams Family

71. Wacky, in Oaxaca
72. Exploits
73. ____ Bruce who played the hungry i
74. School test

DOWN

1. Agcy. that Hoover headed
2. City in central Pennsylvania
3. Meet the requirements (for)
4. Org. for probing outer-space life
5. They're not cloudy over the home on the range
6. What "Pomodoro" means
7. Greek war god
8. Brummel or Bridges
9. Hourglass stuff
10. AWOL part
11. Relier on "the kindness of strangers." in

Streetcar

12. Chaney of old films
13. It may be fried at Griddle Fresh
21. Full of energy
22. Stamp word at the Sally Brunn Library
23. Newcomer at Noe Valley Pet Co.
26. Help
27. "Gangnam Style" performer
29. Twitter stock event of November 2013, for short
31. Gibbons of *Entertainment Tonight*
32. Unwell
33. You, to Yves
35. Elevator, to a Brit
39. Pt. of DMV
40. Music from monks
41. Brynner of *The King and I*
42. In favor
43. 2001 role for Will Smith

44. Spelled-out hit for Tammy Wynette
47. Circuit breaker predecessor
48. Song starting "My country, 'tis of thee"
49. Gp. with X-ray machines
51. With "family," a GOP catchphrase
52. Yale collegian
53. "____, turn on, drop out" (Timothy Leary's mantra)
57. He played Opie
60. It might be served alla Bolognese at Bacco
61. Facility
62. Memo abbr.
63. Golfer's objective
64. Capote, on Broadway
65. Pronoun often embroidered
68. Male tabby

Solution on Page 33

LETTERS 49¢



‘Contentious’ Hardly the Word

Editor:

I got a good laugh when I read in the November *Voice* that Supervisor Scott Wiener felt Nutraceutical Corporation let the Real Food location on 24th Street stay empty for 10 years because “things were so contentious the first few years.”

Well, yes. Nutraceutical seems to have had contentious relationships with everyone: the Real Food employees they fired; the National Labor Relations Board, which ruled against them; and the former owners of the building, whom Nutraceutical out-manuevered.

Let them tear down the building and replace it with something else. And let the new edifice stand as a shining monument to the folks who poured millions of Utah

dollars into the campaign for Prop. 8 [the 2008 measure against same-sex marriage].

Matte Gray

Slur a Stretch

Editor:

I congratulate you on printing the hilarious letter from John Holland [December 2013/January 2014] in which he says that Tom Peck is anti-Semitic for criticizing C.W. Nevius’ and Scott Wiener’s alleged campaign against the homeless. This will doubtless come as a great shock to Nevius’ mother. Your faithful fan,

Louis Bryan
Noe Street

When in Doubt About the Drought

Editor’s Note: Like everyone else in California, we at the Voice started to sweat a little more on Jan. 17, the day Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state drought emergency and called for a voluntary 20 percent reduction in water use. To stem the tide, we sent an email to the city’s water department, asking for tips on conservation. Here’s the helpful letter we received from Charles Sheehan, spokesman for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Editor:

We have a long list of water-saving tips on our website, which can be found here: <http://www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=139>. (A partial list appears in the box at right.)

Just as important, San Francisco residents and businesses are eligible to come into our customer service kiosk downstairs at 525 Golden Gate and pick up water-saving devices for *free*. This list includes:

- Low-flow 1.5 GPM (gallons per minute) showerheads
- Low-flow 1.5 GPM lavatory faucet aerators
- Low-flow 1.5 GPM swivel faucet aerators
- Standard replacement flapper valves
- Toilet leak detection tablets

For houses that are 20, 30, 40, or more years old, these devices can significantly reduce water consumption in the home and cut costs on water bills.

We also offer rebates for high-efficiency toilets and for high-efficiency washers, which once installed can drastically reduce water consumption and cut costs on water bills.

These programs, incentives, and rebates are very popular, and they are one of the reasons San Francisco residents

consume on average 49 gallons of water a day—one of the lowest residential consumption figures in the state of California.

Whether it’s taking shorter showers or calling up the SFPUC to schedule a *free* “water-wise” evaluation, we are full of ideas residents can use to save water.

Charles Sheehan
Communications Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities
Commission

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, S.F., CA 94146. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, street, and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

Water Conservation Tips

On Jan. 17, Gov. Jerry Brown officially declared a state drought emergency and asked California residents to reduce water usage by 20 percent. In case you’ve lapsed on your water-saving routine, here’s an abbreviated list of suggestions provided by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

In the Kitchen

Don’t leave the water running. Turn off the tap while washing dishes. Fill the sink or a pail to wash and rinse dishes.

Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small leak from worn washers can waste more than 50 gallons of water per day. Turn off all water-using devices and check your meter. If the meter is still moving, you have a leak.

Install aerators on faucets. Installing aerators on kitchen and bathroom sinks can reduce indoor water use by about 4 percent.

Use the dishwasher only when there is a full load.

In the Bathroom

Are your toilets, faucets, or showerheads leaking? Do you hear the toilet running or your faucet dripping? To check for leaks, turn off all water taps inside and outside your home. Locate your water meter. If the dial is moving, you may have a plumbing leak.

Check your toilet flapper. Over time the flapper in your toilet tank becomes worn and does not work effectively. Leaky flappers are the most common undetected leaks in the house. The SFPUC provides FREE flappers to San Francisco residents.

Take shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to lather up, wash down, and rinse. A running shower can waste 3-7 gallons per minute.

Install low-flow showerheads. Replace older showerheads with new efficient models that use 2.0 gallons per minute or less. The SFPUC provides them for FREE.

Turn off the tap. Running the water while brushing teeth and shaving can waste hundreds of gallons every month.

Replace your old toilet. Toilets are the largest water user in the home. New high-efficiency toilet models flush at 1.28 gallons or less while older ones can use up to 7 gallons per flush. We provide for the purchase of new, efficient toilet models.

The toilet is not a wastebasket. You could be wasting up to 7 gallons each time you flush trash down the toilet.

In the Laundry Room

Upgrade to an efficient clothes washing machine. Wash only full laundry loads.

Outside Your Home

Plant climate-appropriate species. Reduce outdoor watering needs by planting species appropriate for San Francisco’s climate. Use the San Francisco Low Water Use and Climate Appropriate Plant List.

Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your lawn. If the grass springs back up when you remove pressure, it doesn’t need watering.

Water at night or early morning. To reduce evaporation and irrigation water lost due to wind, water lawns and plants between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Place mulch around trees and plants. A 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch retains soil moisture, suppresses weed growth and can add nutrients back into the soil as it decomposes.

Install shut-off nozzles on all garden hoses. Make sure your garden hose has an automatic shut-off. The city provides FREE shut-off nozzles for San Francisco residents.

Sweep sidewalks and driveways. Hosing down pavement around your home can waste hundreds of gallons.

Don’t let water run while washing the car. Clean the car with a bucket of soapy water. Use the hose only to rinse it off.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a Water-Wise Evaluation, see www.sfwater.org or contact the SFPUC’s Water Conservation Section at 415-551-4730.

Source: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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Sad Journey for Homeless Resident Glen Evans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dufty, a former supervisor from District 8, says progress is being made toward getting Evans a place to live, and “we are hopeful and confident” a housing opportunity will open soon. But he says he cannot discuss specifics because of laws designed to protect Evans’ health privacy rights.

Grew Up on Vicksburg

Evans, a reticent man, reveals only snippets of his life. Interrupted while reading a newspaper, he doesn’t have much inclination to talk. His chin is pressed toward his chest due to spinal problems.

He says he “was born and raised in Noe Valley, on Vicksburg Street,” and he once played the piano and guitar. He has worked in computer and other professional fields, he says. But he doesn’t elaborate.

At some point he lost his rental housing—he doesn’t explain why. He has family, but his relatives have moved away, and “I don’t ask for much help.”

He prefers life on the streets of Noe Valley because the neighborhood is familiar and “because it’s safe,” he says. He eats in his “favorite” restaurants beyond 24th Street because “it’s very pricey to eat in Noe Valley.”

Locating permanent housing has been a challenge. Evans says he doesn’t feel safe staying in downtown homeless shelters, and one of the few acceptable places he’s found, in Hayes Valley, has a waiting list.

Evans keeps quiet about where he spends his nights, probably for safety reasons. But locals say they spot him in breezeways, alcoves, and other hidden corners along 24th Street.

Situation Deteriorating

Residents say a combination of love, compassion, and yes, self-interest has motivated their attempts to provide Evans with medical care and decent housing.

Carol Yenne, a longtime 24th Street businesswoman, says she has seen at least four homeless people succumb to the elements over the past 15 years.

“I can’t watch another person die on the streets,” says Yenne, who sought and got permission from Evans to speak on his behalf to city health officials.

“He is physically and emotionally not able to take care of himself,” says Yenne. “He made a lifestyle choice to be on the streets for the last 20 years, and the result is that he has deteriorated a lot and his choices are limited.”

Not being able to find a solution has been frustrating. Back in September, Yenne notified Dufty in an email that other residents had sought help for Evans “because of his feet and his lice.” Then



Glen Evans sits for a spell at one of his regular stops along 24th Street, a bench in the parking lot next to Radio Shack. He doesn’t want to leave the peacefulness of Noe Valley. But his health and other forces may demand that he move into public housing. *Photo by Corrie M. Anders*

“he reappears after a few weeks after getting care, and then the cycle starts again until he becomes incoherent and sleeps all day, which is how he is now again.”

Friends Who’ve Helped

Mary McFadden, a writer who lives on 24th Street, and her mother, Mary Louise McFadden, have also befriended Evans.

“My mother was actually taking care of him for a long time,” says the writer, letting him sleep indoors on stormy nights and providing some meals. But her mother, now 83 years old, couldn’t help as much as she got older “and his mental illness progressed.”

Atypical of many down-and-outers, Evans does not smoke, drink, or do drugs, says McFadden. And he doesn’t panhandle for money.

“That’s not the problem,” she says. “The problem is he doesn’t bathe. He can be really sweet and really nice, but he doesn’t know where he is a lot of the time.”

Attorney Robert Roddick’s empathy toward Evans comes from intimate knowledge of the ravages of homelessness. He has a 39-year-old daughter with substance abuse issues who has been living a vagabond life off and on for 18 years, he says, most recently sleeping in Laguna Honda Forest near the city’s skilled nursing and rehabilitation hospital.

As a worried and pained parent, Roddick says he has tried many times to rescue his child—finding her lodging and giving her money until he felt he could no

longer financially support her self-destructive behavior.

But while he can relate personally to Evans’ situation, Roddick says he also has to address concerns raised by members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, a group he currently leads as president.

‘It’s a Tough One’

Though many passersby tend to ignore Evans, Roddick says his presence causes discomfort for a good number of merchants and shoppers.

“His hands seem to be all over things at the Farmers Market,” the popular Saturday venue on 24th Street, where Roddick says he has observed Evans “fingering the vegetables.”

In addition, Roddick says, Evans believes himself outdoors, hogs the curb-

side benches—“it defeats the purpose of having the benches; he smells and no one will sit next to him”—and camps out on business properties.

Still, Roddick, along with 24th Street merchant David Eiland, led last fall’s email campaign to get shelter and medical aid for Evans.

“We’re all compassionate and trying to do something about it,” says Roddick, “but it’s a tough one.”

Evans acknowledges that his is a punishing situation—but one destined to improve.

“I’m a survivor,” Evans says of his homeless condition. “I don’t expect it to last forever.” ■

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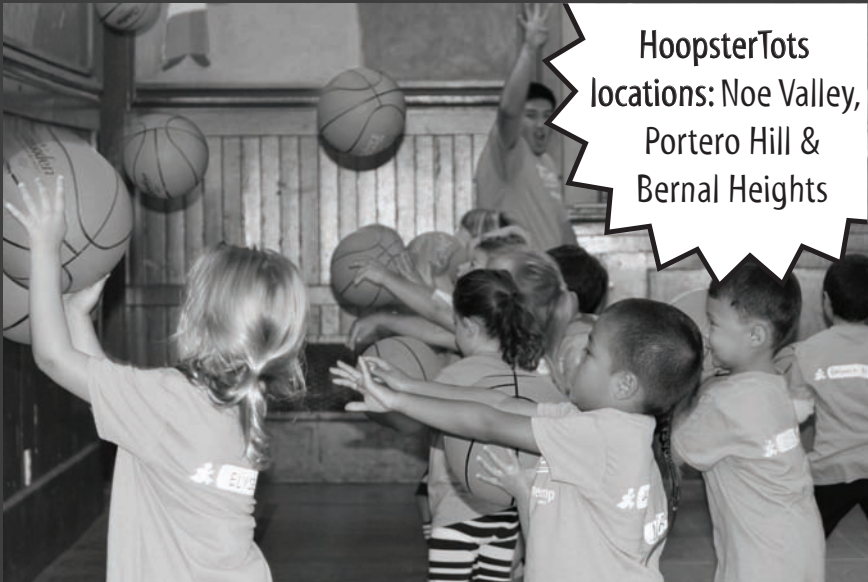
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Bulb-Outs Planned For Corners of Noe And Castro

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

defines the Castro Street intersection, at the Noe and Church Street intersections.

They also proposed constructing bulb-out sidewalks at the bus stops on the south side of 24th Street east of Castro Street and west of Noe Street.

The project’s \$560,000 budget would come from the street improvement bond passed by voters in 2011, and if there were enough money left over after the first four changes, another brick-patterned crosswalk would go in at Sanchez as well.

Additionally, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is considering widening the sidewalk bus stop on the east side of Castro at 24th.

Advantage Muni

The changes could mean a small gain in parking, said Ken Kwong, a transportation engineer for the SFMTA. The current bus stops are marked by 90 feet of painted red curb, but a bulb-out takes only 55 feet. They should also mean slightly faster service for Muni buses, which often face difficulties pulling away from the curb as drivers cut around them. Bulb-outs, which extend the sidewalk corner into the street (the width of the parking lane), allow passengers to board the bus without its having to pull out of traffic.

That means traffic cannot pass buses, however.

“It’s really going to be mayhem,” said meeting participant Avery Chope, who has lived on 24th Street since 1988. He envisions long lines of cars stuck behind



This artistic rendering of a proposed bulbout at 24th and Noe streets shows how an additional seven feet of sidewalk shortens the length of the crosswalk and enables buses to load and unload passengers without leaving the traffic lane. *Rendering courtesy Jason Su, DPW*

buses. “I think this is going to create a huge bottleneck.”

Don Neuwirth, an Elizabeth Street resident who helped design the Urban Village plan for the neighborhood’s commercial corridor nearly eight years ago, acknowledged that the changes require tradeoffs.

“It really does balance out in everyone’s favor,” he said.

Money Better Spent?

Mary McFadden, who has lived at Noe and 24th streets for 20 years, worried more about delivery trucks being able to turn around the widened sidewalks. Already the trucks wreak havoc, she said.

“There’s no control over them,” she said. “Everyone talks about education and enforcement—it never happens.”

Nonetheless, she supports the bulb-

outs with some reservations.

“They only work if you have a lot of other things that work with them,” she said. “It’s not a panacea.”

McFadden also wondered if the money might not be better spent elsewhere.

“Infrastructure projects like bulb-outs might be classified as transit improvements, but half a million dollars would go a lot further in parts of town where the sidewalks and streets are in bad shape,” she said.

Bounty from Google Buses

Supervisor Wiener said he believes enforcement will grow as the police department grows, as it is expected to do. He also addressed neighbor Dan Duncan’s concern about corporate shuttles navigating the wider turns.

Wiener said the MTA recently imple-

mented a program to charge shuttles \$1 every time they use a Muni stop. The shuttle fees will generate \$1.5 million a year to pay for staff to coordinate where the shuttles can stop and can prohibit them from using stops with tight turns, he said. The money will also fund enforcement.

Andy Ferguson was delighted with the proposals.

“This is positive progress,” said the 25th Street resident. “The bulb-outs improve pedestrian safety.”

The buses barely pull into the curb as it is, he said.

“We functionally have bulb-outs already because the butt of the bus sticks out into traffic,” he said.

Owen Linzmayer, who recently moved to 24th Street, also liked the proposals.

“If these have proven effective in other parts of the city, I see no reason they wouldn’t be effective here,” he said.

DPW project manager John Dennis said detailed designs would be drawn up this spring, with construction expected to start next fall.

To get more information, visit www.sfdpw.org and search for “Noe.” ■

VOICE ARTIFACTS

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE website at

www.noevalleyvoice.com

features the entire newspaper, ads included, in digital form. The site also archives *Voice* issues from 1996 to the present. Older editions, dating back to 1977, are stored at the San Francisco History Room, Main Library. To find a recent paper copy, check Good News at 3920 24th St.



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The New View East. After two years, the construction snarls and delays along Cesar Chavez St. are over. Palms, other flora, and updated lighting now occupy the new laid stone median strip, making the drive and walk along this busy thoroughfare more pleasant. *Photo by Corrie M. Anders*

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Niners Winless In Seattle, But Cheered in Noe Valley

By Jeff Kaliss

“We’re doing fine,” announced Greg Stevens during the halftime break at the NFC Championship Game on Jan. 19. He’d been watching the telecast of his hometown team, the 49ers, who’d so far racked up 10 points against the Seahawks’ three, up at Seattle’s CenturyLink Field.

Seated in the Valley Tavern’s smoking room, a short hop from his 24th Street home in Noe Valley, Stevens was somewhat insulated from the joyful noise and the packed crowd in the main part of the bar. “We have a tough game, but we have the tenacity to win, and ultimately we’ll find a way to get the ball deep down the field,” Stevens said. “And we will show our true colors.”

Stevens himself had managed to make it to and from the back of the bar, where he’d found chicken, hamburgers, bangers, ribs, and garden salad, provided by owner Vince Hogan.

He’d passed by Roger and Coty Castillo, self-proclaimed “refugees from Noe’s,” the bar where the couple would have watched the game, had it not been closed for renovations by its new owners. “But we love it here, we love the bartenders,” said Roger. Nancy Emery, who’d presided over the drinks at Noe’s during many past championship and Super Bowl games, had advised the Castil-

los and others of her longtime patrons that she’d soon be assuming the weekday daytime shift at the Tavern.

Roger Castillo also had praise for 49er standout Colin Kaepernick, who would accumulate 130 rushing yards before the game’s finish. “We haven’t seen a quarterback run like that since Steve Young,” grinned Roger. “We have to stop Lynch, that’s what we have to do,” added Coty, in reference to Seattle’s indomitable running back Marshawn Lynch. In her imagination, she was already looking ahead a couple of Sundays to Super Bowl XLVIII. “We beat Denver before in a Super Bowl,” she said about the victor in the AFC matchup which had ended several hours earlier. “We could do it again.”

The patrons at the end of the bar were bedecked in Niners red, and they included Noe Street residents Michael Hamilton-West and his wife, April.

“We love the environment, everyone around us is warm and hospitable,” beamed April. “That’s why I’m always here, for the Niners, Giants, Warriors, Sharks, whatever it is.” She counted herself a lifelong home team supporter, having grown up “watching the 49ers parade down Mission Street on fire trucks.” But she’d noted changes in professional football. “Now they call more unsportsmanlike conduct, everything is a foul, because they’ve done more research about head injuries and damage to your health. At the end of a career, there can be side effects.”

She and her husband keep close watch on their two girls, both students at St. Paul’s. Unable to join their parents in a drinking establishment, the kids were watching the current game with their grandmother in the Outer Sunset. “I have an 11-year-old that gets invited to play



Ever Faithful: At the Valley Tavern on 24th Street, April and Michael Hamilton-West and friends root for the home team in the last big game of the football season. Photo by Jeff Kaliss

with the boys, because she hits harder than they do,” said April. It sounded more like a brag than a worry.

Mid-Game Heroics

Some 10 or 15 minutes into the third quarter, a cheer was heard, but from the bank of TVs, not from the 49er faithful. “Oh, s--t!”, exclaimed Greg Stevens. “The game is tied! We’re going to have to play with increased confidence.”

His advice seemed applicable to Kaepernick a few minutes later, who completed a long pass to wide receiver Michael Crabtree and a long run of his own, but then suffered a sack and a fumble. The fumble was immediately recovered by San Francisco center Jonathan Goodwin, much to the relief of the Valley Tavern onlookers. Then another pass to wide receiver Anquan Boldin put the Niners ahead 17-10.

“Man to man, I think we’re more talented than they are,” opined Jeff Putnam, who’d come for the second half after finishing a job on 26th Street. Putnam’s allegiance actually predated Candlestick. “I go back to Y.A. Tittle, back to the ’50s, when they used to play at Kezar. I saw Jim Brown and Gale Sayers,” he pointed out. “It was a game anybody could go to. Now everything is a business, and I can’t afford to go to games anymore. But luckily they show them on TV, like this.”

The screens provided commentary about crowd noise in Seattle, which Seahawks fans, the notorious “12th Man,” were hoping would reach a deafening 137 decibels.

(For those keeping tabs, Fox News later reported that the top decibel level was 108 at the NFC champ game.)

“The Niners have to play with all these distractions, it’s just a bunch of nonsense,” Putnam complained. “These people make it hard for the Niners to communicate with each other, but if they get into the fourth quarter with a lead or a tie,

they’re probably going to prevail. For me, *this* is the Super Bowl, right here. The real Super Bowl would be an easier game than this one.”

As if to bolster the veteran fan’s hopes, the Tavern crowd offered up a massed “Let’s go, Niners!” Their enthusiasm was little diminished by a field goal by Seattle kicker Steven Hauschka.

A Thirteenth Man

Down the street at the Dubliner, a rare expatriate Seahawks supporter, Austin Henkel, voiced his own happiness, but not too loudly, when his team took the lead with a touchdown shortly into the fourth quarter.

“Noe’s [Bar] is being worked on, that’s why I’m not there, but this is a good spot to watch a game,” said Henkel, who now lives on Guerrero Street. “I was considering putting on my Seahawks jersey, with wings and all that, but that’s the only thing I’m really censoring myself on.”

Henkel demonstrated appreciation of the team which most of the folks around him were cheering for. “Their offense is great, and their defense is even better,” he said of the 49ers. “So it’s probably more of a defensive battle.” Asked how he hoped things would turn out, he admitted, “I do have five American dollars on the Seahawks.”

Ultimately, Henkel won his bet, and Seattle won the defensive battle, including a heartbreaking deflection—by Seahawks cornerback (and trash-talker) Richard Sherman—of a potentially game-winning pass by Kaepernick to Crabtree. The score finished at 23 points for Seattle, 17 for San Francisco.

“It’s like finishing up a big Candlestick chapter,” Putnam had said back at the Tavern, musing on what it would be like to follow the next 49ers season. “Going to Santa Clara, I think that’s too bad. I don’t understand how they can take the team away from us.” ■

Tech Mastermind Conjuring Clues for 5th Annual Scavenger Hunt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dle School, and Marshall Elementary School will split the spoils, but anyone willing to pay the registration fee can join the fun.

The evening ends at 8 p.m., when searchers gather at the Valley Tavern on 24th Street to pour over the results, swap stories, and drink beer.

Smart Phones, Smart Shoes

Smith and past participants stress the importance of wearing comfortable shoes, as the clues can be hidden anywhere from 30th to 22nd Street between Dolores and Grand View. Flashlights or flashlight apps are another must-have.

One year, a team asked if one of their members could stay in their line of sight without having to climb hills because she was in her third trimester of pregnancy.

Smith granted that one, but gave no credit to the mom who approached him at his perch at the Valley Tavern and said she knew the location of the final clue but couldn’t walk to 30th Street to take a picture, pointing to her high-heeled shoes.

Some teams have been known to avoid this problem by following Smith to the tavern to analyze clues, then never leaving. (Scoring is done by Smith’s wife, Diane, and other volunteers in a secret location.)

The first three teams to answer the most clues correctly by 8 p.m. (or all 10 clues before then) win prize packages that include Giants and Warriors tickets and gift certificates from stores such as Ambiance and Sports Basement. The team with the best name also wins a prize.

This year, Smith threw an auction into the mix, putting on eBay a \$3,500 robot package donated by RobotsLAB. The kit has four robots that help teach things like quadratic equations and sines and cosines. Smith promises a demonstration of one of the robots before the evening’s

hunt begins. Also up for bid will be a generous package from the Richmond East Kumon Math and Reading Center, a tutoring program.

The bidding for both ends Feb. 11, which is too bad, because participants might want to bone up on math before the hunt.

“I have in mind a complex mathematical equation that results in a home address,” Smith says. Kumon has promised to check his math.

Hints to Be Tweeted

Any more sneak previews for *Voice* readers?

“Brush up on your basic cryptography,” says Smith, cryptically.

Smith lived in Noe Valley for about 15 years, including a stint on Cesar Chavez when it was still Army, which might explain his fondness for clues with old street names. (Brush up on your old street names, readers.)

As the evening progresses, Smith will send hints through Twitter, so at least one person on each team should follow @techsearchparty, he advises.

This year, Smith hopes to push the take to \$20,000, and based on his sponsorships, he thinks he’ll make it.

Those sponsors—and the thrill of creating a hard puzzle and watching the players struggle—keep Smith in the game, even though Quincy and her older brother Jeremiah have now moved on to other schools.

“I can make \$10,000 because of repeat sponsors, and I didn’t like the idea of that money not going to schools,” Smith says. He also likes the example of charitable involvement the game sets for his children.

Plus, he thinks it’s fun.

For more information or to register, visit www.techsearchparty.com. ■



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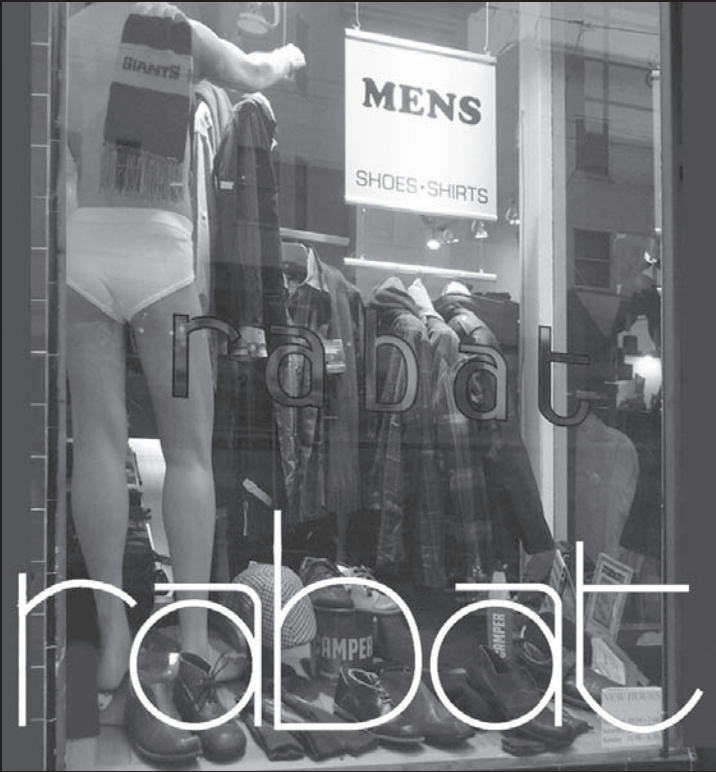
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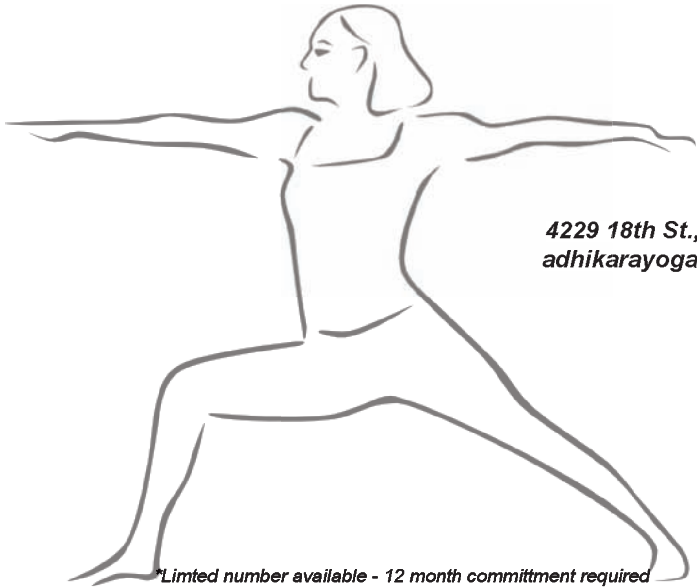


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SHORT TAKES

Dog Park Reopening Stuck in Mud

Upper Douglass Dog Park's opening has been delayed until spring while the Recreation and Park Department struggles with drainage issues that were more persistent than previously realized.

"People are angry, but realistically this has to be fixed right," said Jim Collins, president of the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park. The group has been working with the department for more than two years to solve chronic drainage and ground-coverage problems, winning a \$136,000 grant to help cover the costs.

As was recommended by the Department of Public Works, the park department repaired the old drainage system, replacing 200 feet of pipes that had been choked by tree roots and collapsed in some places. In addition, a new irrigation system was installed. The park was set to reopen last October, but the drainage remained an issue.

"[The Recreation and Park Department] took a good shot at fixing the problems, and it turned out not to be enough," Collins said. "It's a long complicated project."

While some users fume, others understand the wait. Dog walker Melissa Burnley continues taking dogs to the alternative locations she scouted out when the park closed a year ago.

"The whole point of the deal is making sure it's done correctly," she said.

Bob Evans agreed. He and some of the other Douglass regulars have had to use Christopher Park in Diamond Heights.

"I'm going late in the afternoon to make sure there are no problems with pedestrians and elderly people walking," he said. "It's very much an inconvenience, but it's a reality."

The dog group also wants to ensure the park is a good neighbor when it finally reopens, Collins said. The park is used by several hundred dogs a day, yet is surrounded by houses.

FUDDP and Supervisor Scott Wiener were scheduled to hold a community meeting at the Douglass Playground Clubhouse on Jan. 30. To find out the latest, visit FUDDP's Facebook page.

Can I Have a Word With You?

The book opens on Noe Valley's Word Week March 16, and this year's week-long celebration of local literacy will include readings, panels, an LGBT night, and a book swap. New this year will be Pitchapalooza, a session in which authors pitch their children's book ideas to a panel of publishing professionals.

Hosted by the neighborhood association Friends of Noe Valley, Word Week will again include the Authors Festival, featuring local writers published in the last year. Like last year, authors from Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods will have tables and a chance to sell their books during the three-hour event.

If you've had a book published within the last year and live in Noe Valley or contiguous neighborhoods, contact Word Week organizers at wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com to apply. Please include your name, contact information, book title and subject, and your neighborhood. All types of books and genres are welcome. Participation costs \$25 to help pay for the event.

Venue information will be posted on the Friends' website soon: www.friends-ofnoevalley.com.

Chamber Music Gala Features Piano

Noe Valley Chamber Music's 2014 Gala Celebration features San Francisco Symphony regular Robin Sutherland for an evening of piano and a silent auction Sunday, Feb. 9, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Sutherland will be joined by colleagues from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Christopher Basso, Scott Foglesong, Keisuke Nakagoshi, and Nicholas Pavkovic. Together they will play music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Earl Wild, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

The evening begins at 4 p.m. with a silent auction and a raffle to win a wine cellar worth more than \$500. The concert begins at 5 p.m. and is followed by a reception with food, wine and champagne, and an opportunity to meet the artists. Tickets cost \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

The festival will move back to the newly remodeled Noe Valley Ministry for two concerts next January and February, said Tiffany Loewenberg, executive director.

"We are excited to try out the acoustics of the redesigned building," she said.

The rest of the performances will be at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, which is located at 1111 O'Farrell St. For more information, visit www.nvcm.org or call 415-648-5236.

San Jose Avenue Goes on a Diet

San Jose Avenue northbound will shrink to two lanes for a nine-month pilot project set to start in late spring or early summer, according to Andres Power, an aide to Supervisor Scott Wiener.

As there have been since the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, there will still be two lanes to exit Interstate 280 at San Jose Avenue, but those two lanes will become one as they wind beneath the underpass.

The lane that comes from San Jose Avenue will remain, so drivers emerging from the underpass will have two lanes of traffic, a buffer, a bike lane, and a sidewalk—a mirror image of southbound San Jose Avenue.

"Traffic models say it's not going to generate any congestion at all," said Andres Power. Furthermore, the lane diet is expected to reduce the average speed from more than 50 miles per hour to the low 40s, he said.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will collect data about roadway usage and speed on San Jose Av-

enue and surrounding streets before and during the pilot, he said.

Community meetings to discuss the outcome will follow, he said.

"Nothing is irreversible," he said of the changes. "It's just striping."

The SFMTA, Supervisor Scott Wiener, and the College Hill Neighborhood Association will host a community meeting regarding the proposed changes Feb. 3, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Glen Park School, 151 Lippard Ave.

Three Park Roundup

Glen Canyon playground's grand reopening is scheduled for Feb. 22, completing the first round of work done on the 67-acre park.

The remodeled playground will have new slides, swings, and climbing structures. A little further north, two new tennis courts will be accessible via a new entrance that will allow cars to pull off Elk Street and drop off visitors.

The opening follows about six months and \$5.8 million worth of work paid for by money from a 2008 bond. The 1930s era recreation center got new heating and handicapped-accessible bathrooms as well. Plans for a \$12 million renovation of the building are being finalized, but work is not expected to start until spring 2015.

For more information, visit www.sfrecpark.org, click on Capital Projects and search for "Glen."

Plans for a reconfigured Noe Courts are currently at the Planning Department, which is expected to determine what level of environmental impact review will be required by early March, Recreation and Park Department spokeswoman Connie Chan said.

The next step will be for the plans to go before the Recreation and Park Commission, probably about four to six weeks later, she said. The small park, located at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets, will have new bathrooms and a newly designed lawn, dog play, and tennis/basketball court area.

Down the hill at 20th and Church streets, Mission Dolores Park's \$12.4 million remodel is expected to begin in March, and parts of the park will be closed in phases during the construction until its end in spring 2015.

The Dolores Park work includes renovation of the courts, field, and play area, new restroom buildings, and improved irrigation and lighting.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Heather World.

Agnos Putting Warriors Plans Through the Hoops

Former Mayor Art Agnos last month asked Noe Valley residents to support his campaign to trounce the Golden State Warriors' plan to build a 12-story basketball arena on the San Francisco waterfront.

An estimated 30 locals showed up to hear Agnos at a Jan. 8 presentation sponsored by Upper Noe Neighbors. It was held at the Upper Noe Rec Center at Day and Sanchez streets.

Agnos, fresh from a November ballot-box win—he led the fight against the 8 Washington luxury condominium project on the Embarcadero—started out by refuting any ideas that he hated the Warriors or was running for the office he once held.

"I am not running for mayor. And I am not against the Warriors. I like the Warriors. I'm a fan," he said.

What he doesn't like is the size and location of the team's proposed arena, envisioned as an 18,000-seat venue in downtown San Francisco near the Bay Bridge. He called the park a camouflage for "a mega real estate entertainment complex" which would require millions of dollars in public subsidies. He suggested instead that the deactivated Candlestick Park football stadium site in Hunters Point would be a better location for the Oakland team.

The arena that the Warriors hope to build, on a 13.2-acre site at Piers 30 to 32, is five times the size of Union Square, Agnos said. In addition, he said, the project would include a 500-space private parking garage—exclusively for team personnel and VIPs—and a large shopping center. Agnos said the team also wanted to build a 17-story luxury condominium complex and a smaller shopping center across the street.

The deal would require the city to tear down and rebuild the old piers, at a projected cost of \$120 million. According to Agnos, the city would borrow the money from the Warriors, at 13 percent interest, and repay it in a way that gives the team certain property tax breaks and lifetime free rent at the arena.

"I don't think it's a good deal for our city—environmentally, socially, or economically," he said.

At the rec center, there appeared to be strong sentiment in favor of Agnos' position among the crowd of mostly middle-aged and older residents. One Warriors fan, however, castigated Agnos for trying to thwart the arena's construction.

A spokesman for the Warriors, reached later, strongly rejected Agnos' claim that construction of new piers would use public money.

"He's wrong. He's playing fast and loose with the facts," said Nathan Ballard.

Ballard said the city would provide the piers but that the Warriors "would pay the upfront cost" of tearing down and rebuilding the currently dilapidated piers.

Ballard said the arena itself would be privately financed—and that its location would enable fans to use BART, Muni, and ferry service to reach the facility.

"There are no new taxes, no money from the city's general fund," Ballard said, calling the arena a "no-brainer" that would benefit the city and sports fans.

—Corrie M. Anders



Bella eagerly awaits the resodding and reopening of Douglass Dog Park.

Photo by Sally Smith

The Cost of Living in Noe

Market Takes Us Higher

By Corrie M. Anders

During the last two months of 2013, buyers purchased 24 single-family homes, 14 condominiums, and eight multi-unit buildings in Noe Valley. The number of sales was about the same as that recorded during November and December of 2012, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.



A four-bedroom condominium on Grand View Avenue—offering its residents two master suites, a gourmet kitchen, and a deck with a lofty view—sold in December for \$1,750,000. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

However, the cost to own a piece of the neighborhood—from a crumbling Victorian cottage to a sleek modern tower—had jumped considerably. “We have limited inventory and plenty of buyers,” explained Randall Kostick, Zephyr’s general sales manager. He also noted that Noe Valley continued to be a magnet for wealthy young tech and social media entrepreneurs. The strong activity over the past year helped property values appreciate nearly 20 percent. In December, the average home cost \$1,893,000, or 18.2 percent more than in December the year before. The average \$1.8 million that buyers paid in November represented a 19.3 percent increase. Nine of the 24 detached homes sold in excess of \$2 million, Kostick pointed out, and the two most expensive sales hovered around \$3 million. In December, buyers forked over \$2,950,000—\$100,000 more than the asking price—for a four-bedroom, 4.5-bath home with 3,450 square feet of space. The house, located in the 1700 block of Church Street between 29th and 30th streets, closed escrow in just 13 days. Built in 1935, the three-story dwelling had been renovated in the past two years with designer touches, including a rooftop terrace offering panoramic views. November’s most expensive home, located in the 400 block of Valley Street between Noe and Castro, sold in 43 days for \$2,950,000. The 1900 home, which had undergone an extensive remodel, featured four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, a penthouse, and four-car parking in 3,327 square feet of living space.

Condos Average \$1 Million

Buyers who couldn’t dig deep enough to buy a Noe Valley house turned instead to the condominium market. Fourteen



A rooftop terrace embellishes this renovated home on Church Street, which sold in December for \$2,950,000. Triple-paned windows in the four-bedroom house keep noise from the J-Church Muni line at a minimum.

condos changed hands during November and December. That was one more than during the same period in 2012. Though less costly than detached homes, condominiums sold in November and December still averaged \$1 million-plus. A four-bedroom, four-bath condo sharing a two-unit building in the 700 block of Grand View between 25th and Clipper streets sold in December for \$1,750,000. Its charm lay in its bay views, luxury amenities, and 3,000 square feet of space—more than most detached homes in Noe Valley.

In November, buyers picked up the keys for a two-bedroom, two-bath unit in the 400 block of Fair Oaks Street between 25th and 26th streets. The 1,691-square-foot home closed escrow at \$1,525,000, 18 percent over the asking price. ■



The facade of this house, first built in 1900, belies its modern interior, which now features a tower with a penthouse. The four-bedroom home on Valley Street sold in November for \$2,950,000.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
December 2013	9	\$ 869,000	\$2,950,000	\$1,892,667	22	107%
November 2013	15	902,000	2,950,000	1,797,059	35	105%
December 2012	11	837,500	3,846,153	1,600,241	46	101%
November 2012	14	875,000	2,475,000	1,507,714	46	106%
Condominiums						
December 2013	4	750,000	1,750,000	1,277,500	70	105%
November 2013	10	470,000	1,525,000	1,010,614	51	113%
December 2012	9	600,000	1,555,000	968,111	48	106%
November 2012	4	788,000	1,475,000	1,047,000	29	111%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
December 2013	2	1,325,000	1,752,000	1,538,500	34	107%
November 2013	4	1,325,000	2,150,000	1,862,500	25	116%
December 2012	6	790,000	1,700,000	1,198,500	35	108%
November 2012	4	1,040,000	2,370,000	1,660,500	58	107%
5+-unit buildings						
December 2013	1	2,240,000	2,240,000	2,240,000	12	112%
November 2013	1	8,800,000	8,800,000	8,800,000	8	104%
December 2012	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2012	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for providing sales data. NVV 2/2014

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range January 2014	Average January 2014	Average November 2013	Average January 2013
Studio	4	\$1,895 – \$2,000	\$1,955 / mo.	\$2,174 / mo.	\$1,658 / mo.
1-bdrm	30	\$2,295 – \$4,750	\$2,945 / mo.	\$2,805 / mo.	\$2,473 / mo.
2-bdrm	39	\$2,950 – \$7,595	\$4,253 / mo.	\$4,193 / mo.	\$3,683 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$3,800 – \$13,000	\$5,483 / mo.	\$5,606 / mo.	\$5,347 / mo.
4+-bdrm	8	\$5,500 – \$12,500	\$7,661 / mo.	\$7,071 / mo.	\$5,733 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 104 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from Jan. 8 to 21, 2014. NVV 2/2014

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94108, 94109, 94115, 94118, 94121, 94123, 94126, 94129, 94133	March 14, 15, 16
94102, 94103, 94104, 94105, 94107, 94111, 94112, 94124, 94130, 94134, 94158	March 21, 22, 23

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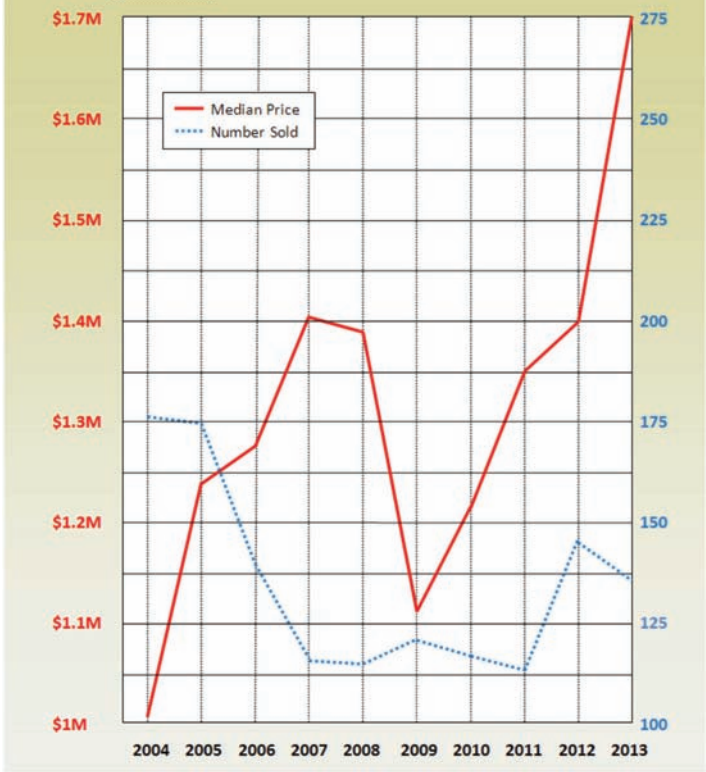


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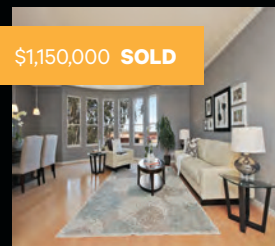
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Charlie Varon Becomes a “Feisty Old Jew”

By Jeff Kaliss

Charlie Varon is not really feisty or old, but he’ll be playing both on stage at the Marsh, starting this month. “I am a shy person, trapped in the body of a solo performer,” the Chattanooga Street resident admits over lunch at La Boulange de Noe.

The 50-something Varon terms his latest creation, *Feisty Old Jew*, “a narrated comic monologue. We’ve got an 80-year-old guy, who can’t stand what the kids are turning San Francisco into, who winds up in the same car with three 20-somethings. And so these two generations, these two views of what San Francisco is and might become, are stuck in the same car with each other. And they can’t escape, for the duration of the piece.”

Varon himself couldn’t escape the “incredible vital energy” of Bernie, the octogenarian who emerged from a series of pieces set in a Jewish retirement home that the playwright developed about a year ago. “Characters are like gophers, they peek out and say, ‘What about me?’,” notes Varon, whose previous solo outings have included *Rabbi Sam* and *Rush Limbaugh in Night School*, the latter of which merited a leaping clapping man from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and an off-Broadway run.

For his creator, Bernie represents “a particular species of working-class New York Jew, who came from nothing and has been on the ascent ever since he was a teenager. And he only feels alive when he’s working an angle. Whatever the occasion demands, he’ll summon truth and lies.”

In the show’s scenario, Bernie, dressed in a stylish suit and bound for a private club in Sausalito, grows tired of waiting for a never-present San Francisco cab, and sticks out his thumb. He’s picked up by a Tesla with surfboards secured to its roof, bound for a beginner surfer’s beach near Bolinas. The state-of-the-art vehicle boasts a built-in espresso coffee machine and an expensive sound system.

The interaction between the “vigorous old man and the smart, privileged young people” makes up the bulk of the show. The hipsters “have [Bernie] pegged as a senile old geezer, which he is definitely not.”

Bernie himself resents these representatives of a demographic whom he blames for having “turned San Francisco into a city of chi-chi cafes and restaurants and boutiques and bike shops and farmers markets and yoga studios and tattoo parlors and medical marijuana dispensaries. A lot of it is the comedy of assumptions. And all of that shifts, changes, and is overturned by the end of the piece.”

Varon wisely avoids spoilers, but is willing to reveal that the Tesla ends up at Bolinas, not Sausalito, and not before “Bernie has convinced them to let him surf, for the first time in his life, and bet them \$400,000 that he’ll ride a wave. I wouldn’t call it a happy ending, but people wind up in places they wouldn’t



He’s Cool. Charlie Varon dons a wetsuit to get into the role of an 80-year-old would-be surfer in *Feisty Old Jew*, opening at the Marsh in February. Photo by Myra Levy

imagine. That’s always the playwright’s game.”

Positioned in middle age, with sons Jonah working “in tech” and Jeremy at Swarthmore College, Varon sees himself as “almost kind of a fly on the wall of the car, with a sense of bemusement and love for both generations.” He’d shared the script with his own parents, who still live “in the same apartment I grew up in, in the Bronx.” His father, Maurice, said about Bernie, “I can’t get enough of this guy.” And his mother, Zipporah, who turned 90 on the day of the interview, responded, “I can!”

“Characters have let me go places and say things and look at the world through different eyes,” Varon points out. “But writing this piece was really one surprise after another, and it was always, am I gonna be able to pull this thing off?”

He worked in the Noe Valley apartment he’s shared with his wife Myra and their sons for 20 years, and at Thorough Bread and Pastry on Church Street near 15th, “the best café in the city, where I go with a pad and a pen, as many mornings as I can.”

In bringing *Feisty Old Jew* to life, Varon has been partnered by longtime co-developer and director David Ford. Music for the show is provided by New York jazz pianist Bruce Barth, who also worked on *Rabbi Sam* and served as Tony Bennett’s pianist and music director.

Varon has himself been directing and teaching, in collaboration with Rebecca Fisher, sometime Noe Valleyan Dan Hoyle, and 18-year-old Dez Gallegos, who’ll be following Varon at the Marsh, in March. Varon also teaches a workshop in solo performance writing, titled *Say What You Mean Before You Die*, and narrates audio tours and podcasts.

But as a rule, he encourages his fans to raise their eyes from their devices. “When it’s crackling,” Varon advises, “theater will always do something that no screen can do.”

Charlie Varon performs Feisty Old Jew on Saturdays and Sundays Feb. 8 to March 16 at the Marsh Main Stage Theater, 1062 Valencia St. Tickets are \$25 to \$100, and are available through www.themarsh.org or by phone at 415-282-3055. ■



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L. Flick Hatcher

STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice column introducing new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month, we profile a small bistro that's attracting crowds to Church Street.

LA NEBBIA

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Longtime Sardinian favorite La Ciccía has a new sister restaurant, just a block away at 1781 Church St. La Nebbia, a combination wine bar, prosciutto bar, and pizzeria, opened in December in Upper Noe Valley.

"You can come in and have a beautiful glass of wine, or have an entire meal," says Chef Massimiliano Conti, who owns both restaurants with his wife, Lorella Degan.

The menu features fresh cheese plates—like the burrata with smoked pancetta and endive truffle sauce or the sheep's milk ricotta with ground red pepper and tuna—that can be paired with over 10 kinds of aged prosciutto and ham, including prosciutto Parma, prosciutto San Daniele, and Jamón Ibérico.

La Nebbia also serves pizza, lasagna, and Tuscan meatballs, for those wanting heartier fare. Most dishes are \$10 to \$15.

The restaurant offers 30 wines by the glass and 110 by the bottle, with a list that focuses on food pairings.

The popularity of La Ciccía is well established after seven years. So, why another restaurant?

"We said wouldn't it be great to have a



Lorella Degan and Massimiliano Conti invite you to stop by La Nebbia, their new Italian comfort food restaurant and wine bar on Church Street.

Photo by Pat Rose

space to feature things we like to have on our day off, when we're not cooking," says Chef Conti. "We love fresh cheeses like burrata, cured meats, and pizza—simple food made in a special artisanal way. It's a different way of eating and thinking about food."

Conti is indeed passionate about food. He sources his ingredients from small organic producers—oregano from Calabria, wild fennel from Sicily, super-sweet Corbara tomatoes from southern Italy. He plays with seasonal ingredients to create comfort food with a twist—a pizza combining fresh mozzarella, anchovies, pine nuts, and squid ink, or a lasagna mixing meat ragout with tomato and béchamel sauce.

La Nebbia means fog in Italian, and the restaurant's design embraces the fog throughout—from the frosted glass on the

front windows, to the flour in the air from the breads and pastas created daily, to the wines of "foggy" northern Italy.

The restaurant seats 43, including a 13-seat bar of stunning white Caesarstone quartz with leather sides, and high bar chairs lit by small stainless steel lights hanging from the ceiling. Conti and Degan designed the larger chandeliers that hang in the main room so they'd look like octopi, one of their favorite foods. (An oven-roasted calamari and baby octopus stew is featured on the menu at La Ciccía, along with the squid-ink pizza found at La Nebbia.)

The building previously held Cece's Closet and the Napra back care studio. Initially, both businesses closed for renovation in order to comply with an ADA/wheelchair accessibility lawsuit. (Cece's wound up closing and Napra

moved out to Ocean Avenue.) The landlord made the required changes and was planning to rent out the spaces as offices, but Conti and Degan came along and expressed interest in combining the two offices for their new restaurant. They started work in February 2013, adding a kitchen and bathroom and completely re-designing the space.

Chef Conti is originally from Sardinia and Lorella Degan grew up in the Veneto region of Italy. They moved to San Francisco in 1996 after working in Washington, D.C., for a few years. In 2006, they opened La Ciccía to mostly rave reviews. Conti formerly worked at Acquerello restaurant on Nob Hill and was a district manager for a wine importer in San Francisco. The couple lived in Noe Valley for several years and currently live in Dogpatch.

La Nebbia is open late—late for Noe Valley, that is: 5:30 to 11 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The restaurant does not take reservations.

—Pat Rose



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Reading Near the Top of the World



Robert Gregory appears relaxed in this photo by his wife **Jan** during a pause in their busy vacation trip that had them arriving in Lhas (Tibet) via Kathmandu after spending a week exploring Bhutan. High in the background is the Potala palace, the former residence for the Dalai Lama. It now serves as an administrative center for ranking monks even as Chinese modernization threatens their existence.

See what some of our other neighbors have been up to on page 38. If you'd like to join them in this type of reporting, send your photos to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.

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Attention, Wordsmiths. A former associate editor of the Noe Valley Voice is accepting submissions for an anthology of memoir, fiction, and poetry on the theme of sisterhood. Perspectives of sisters born and sisters found, sisters loving and sisters disgruntled are all welcome. For full details, please visit <http://wordforest.com/news-events>.

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Submissions: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of short fiction, essays, or poetry, particularly those relating to Noe Valley. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include a phone number.



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The next *Voice* will be the **March 2014** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of February. **The deadline for Class Ads is Feb. 15.**

Note: The next issue will be on the streets for one month. The Class Ads also will be displayed at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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L. Flick Hatcher

FEBRUARY 2014

Feb. 1: Monica Pasqual and the Handsome Brunettes and Spark & Whisper perform at 8 at SF LIVE ARTS (Noe Valley Music Series). St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 1-22: Each Saturday the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live musicians from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmers-market.com.

Feb. 1-24: ARTZONE 461 Gallery exhibits work by Gordon Cook and gallery artists. Reception Feb. 1, 5-8 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; artzone461.com.

Feb. 1-25: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 1-28: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

Feb. 1-28: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

Feb. 1-March 1: The MARSH presents Brian Copeland's *The Scion*. Thurs. & Fri, 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm. 1062 Valencia. 271-3256; themarsh.org.

Feb. 2 & 16: Paxton Gate offers TERRARIUM workshops. 11 am-1 pm. 824 Valencia. 824-1872.

Feb. 2 & 16: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 2-23: The Glen Park Village FARMERS' MARKET is open Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm. Glen Park BART parking lot, Bosworth and Arlington.

Feb. 2-23: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the MISSION DOLORES area. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 3: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a Pop-Up Book Night, featuring two-minute reports about favorite books. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th; no-host supper, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Feb. 3: A community meeting to discuss SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS for San Jose Avenue between Monterey and Randall begins at 6:30 pm. Glen Park School, 151 Lippard. 469-4713; glenparkassociation.org.

Feb. 4: Kurt Timmermeister introduces *Growing a Feast: The Chronicle of a FARM TO TABLE Meal*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Eureka Valley Library offers its TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 4-25: Larkin Street Youth Services gives free HIV TESTING for youth 24 and under. Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. 1800 Market. 673-0911; sfcenter.org.

Feb. 4-25: A Tuesday PUPPY SOCIAL for dogs 6 months and younger offers canine interaction. 7-8 pm. K9 Scrub Club, 1734 Church. Online registration required: k9scrubclub.com.

Feb. 4-27: Attend PUB QUIZ NIGHTS on Tuesdays at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th, and Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

Feb. 4 & March 4: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

Feb. 5: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107. GLBTHistory.org.

Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME and Playtime, for infants to 18 months, starts at 1:30 pm. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 5-26: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wed., 1-3 pm, at Bernal Heights Rec Center, 500 Moultrie. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

Feb. 5-26: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Feb. 5-26: CANDLE SING at Holy Innocents Church includes songs from Taize and the islands of Iona and Lindisfarne. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

Feb. 5-26 & March 5: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

Feb. 6: The SF Council of District Merchants annual gala honors ROBERT RODDICK with the Jebbe Award. 6 pm. Concordia-Argonaut Club, 1142 Van Ness. sfcdma.org.

Feb. 6: Chef Vikas Khanna's *Return to the Rivers* includes recipes, photos, and stories about the HIMALAYAN peoples. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 6, 13 & 20: The Noe Valley Library hosts TODDLER TALES, featuring books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. 451 Jersey. 387-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 6 & 20: The Noe Valley Merchants ADA COMMITTEE meets on first and third Thursdays to discuss accessibility issues. 9:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. info@noevalleymerchants.com.

Feb. 6-20: The 16th SF Independent FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Roxie (3117 16th) and Brava (2781 24th) theaters in San Francisco, and the New Parkway in Oakland (474 24th). For a schedule: 820-3907; sfndie.com.

Feb. 6-March 15: MARGA GOMEZ performs her 10th solo show, *Lovebirds*. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 8:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 282-3055; themarsh.org.

Feb. 7: Gallery of Jewels hosts a trunk show by jewelry maker Adel Chefridi. 3-8 pm. 4089 24th. 285-0626.

Feb. 7-28: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett with artists Don Prell, Jimmy Ryan, and the Third Quartet. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 7-28: Call out "BINGO!" at St. Paul's on Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). St. Paul's Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Feb. 7-28: Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday-night MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com.

Feb. 8: The STORYCORPS project comes to the Noe Valley Library to record tales of growing up in San Francisco. 10:30 am-2:15 pm. 451 Jersey. For an appoint-

ment: publicaffairs@sfpl.org or 557-4277; storycorps.org.

Feb. 8: "African American QUILTS: A Collaborative Community Project" is a slide show and discussion, also featuring hands-on construction of a fabric and cardboard quilt block. 3-4 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 8-March 16: CHARLIE VARON performs *Feisty Old Jew* on Saturday (8 pm) and Sunday (7 pm) nights. The Marsh Main Stage, 1062 Valencia St. 282-3055. www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 9: The group Fair Oaks Neighbors hosts a Dungeness CRAB FEED and discussion of the Green Alleys Project. 4-6 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. fairoaksneighbors.org.

Feb. 8: A Diamond Heights/Glen Park COMMUNITY MEETING will take on neighborhood concerns. 4-6 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine, lower level. 285-9540.

Feb. 8: Natural Resources invites you to meet doulas (2-4 pm) and home-birth MIDWIVES (4-6 pm). 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; naturalresources-sf.com.

Feb. 8: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 1963 FILM *Lilies of the Field*, starring Sidney Poitier. 4-5:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 8: The fifth annual TECH SEARCH PARTY features geek fun for teams, to benefit local schools. Check in at 5:15 pm at James Lick, 1220 Noe; techsearchparty.com.

Feb. 9: Courtney Mummert from the Gay-Straight Alliance youth organization speaks at the monthly PFLAG support group. 2 to 4:15 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church near Market. 921-8850; pflagsf@aol.com.



**NOE VALLEY NURSERY SCHOOL'S
4TH ANNUAL BIG NIGHT**



\$30

Red Carpet Event

**SATURDAY
FEB. 22, 2014
6-10 PM**

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FEATURING DJ ALUX
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RICHARDSON AS M.C.**

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CAMPS, MEXICO VACATION, YOGA
MEMBERSHIPS, SYMPHONY AND
OPERA TICKETS, GIFT CERTIFICATES
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Divorce Options is a 3 hour educational workshop offered monthly, equally appropriate if you are married or a state registered domestic partner, and with or without children.

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9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

& on the first Saturday morning most months.

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
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San Francisco • \$45 per person



www.cp-sf.com
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CALENDAR

Feb. 9: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC’s 2014 Gala features a concert by guest artist Robin Sutherland, a champagne reception, and a silent auction. 4 pm. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 1111 O’Farrell. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

Feb. 10: Litquake hosts “French Women Don’t Refuse Champagne, or LITQUAKE,” a private reception for Mireille Gulliano, author of *French Women Don’t Get Fat*. 5:30 pm. litquake.org.

Feb. 10: You’ll love a Heart-Shaped CHEESE-MAKING workshop led by Louella Hill at 18 Reasons. 6-9 pm. 3674 18th. 568-2710; 18reasons.org.

Feb. 11: John Martini, author of *Sutro’s Glass Palace*, gives a talk at the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7:30 pm. 88 Fifth. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Feb. 11, 18 & 25: Imagiknit offers a CROCHET 101 class from 7-9 pm. 3897 18th. 621-6642.

Feb. 12: The CANADIAN WOMEN’S CLUB lunch meeting features a talk by Irene Bloemraad, Ph.D., about her research in immigration. 11 am. Old Presidio Golf Club. Reservations a must: canadianwomensclub.org.

Feb. 12: The Glen Park Library hosts the Glen Park KNITTING CIRCLE. 4:30-6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 12: American Friends Service Committee presents a PANEL DISCUSSION on “Winning Divestment: Student Struggles for Peace and Justice.” 6-8:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 565-0201.

Feb. 12: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group discusses Sophocles’ *Antigone*. 6:15-8:15 pm. 451 Jersey. 387-2125; sfpl.org.

Feb. 13: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

Feb. 13: Heather Arndt Anderson talks about her book *BREAKFAST: A History*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 13: The Westminster Choir from the First Presbyterian Church in Caldwell, N.J., performs *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* to benefit the Julian Food Pantry and Golden Bridges School. 7:30 pm. Holy Innocents, 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

Feb. 14: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 2008 FILM *Frost/Nixon*, starring Michael Sheen and Frank Langella. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 15: OPERA for the People discusses Antonin Dvorák’s “The Water Nymph and the Prince” from *Rusalka*. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 387-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 15: Chris Kresser introduces *Your Personal PALEO Code: The 3-Step Plan to Lose Weight, Reverse Disease, and Stay Fit and Healthy for Life*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 15: The 2014 Chinese New Year TREASURE HUNT begins with a 3:30 pm check-in at Justin Herman Plaza. 4:30-9 pm. To register: 659-9606; sftreasurehunts.com.

Feb. 15: Will Durst performs at 8 pm for SF LIVE ARTS (Noe Valley Music Series). St. Cyprian’s, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusic-series.com.

Feb. 17: Jan Baptiste Adkins reads from her book *African Americans of San Francisco* at the ODD MONDAYS series. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th; no-host supper, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv

.net). Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

Feb. 19: The California GRAND JURORS’ Association leads a discussion about the workings of the group, “San Francisco’s Watch Dogs.” 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Feb. 19: The Noe Valley BOOK Discussion Group’s selection is *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving* by Jonathan Evison. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 20: The SF Museum and Historical Society offers tours of the OLD MINT. 1 pm. Meet on the northeast side of the Mint Building, in Mint Plaza, off Fifth Street. Reservations required: 537-1105, ext. 100; rsvp@sfhistory.org.

Feb. 20: Green Art Workshop leads a collage workshop inspired by GEE’S BEND QUILTS. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Limited space; pre-register at 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 20: WritersCorps presents a reading by NOVIOLET BULAWAYO, author of *We Need New Names*. 6-7 pm. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission.

Feb. 20: Kung Pao Kosher COMEDY at El Rio spotlights Diane Amos, Nathan Habib, Ian Williams, and Lisa Geduldig. 8 pm. 3158 Mission. ElRiosf.com.

Feb. 22: Glen Canyon PLAYGROUND is set to reopen. To confirm, see sfrecpark.org or call Karen Mauney-Brodek, 575-5601.

Feb. 22: The Noe Valley Library hosts SHAKESPEARE on Tour’s performance of *Julius Caesar*. 3-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Feb. 22: The Glen Park Library screens the 1948 musical FILM *The Emperor Waltz*, starring Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Feb. 22: Noe Valley NURSERY SCHOOL hosts a gala fundraiser, “Fourth Annual Big Night...A Red Carpet Event.” 6-10 pm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa. 647-2278.

Feb. 25: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

Feb. 25: Gary Kurutz discusses the Adolph SUTRO LIBRARY, a rare book treasure now located at SF State, at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip’s Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

Feb. 25: “Cowgirl Creamery: A Conversation and Cheese-Tasting” features Sue Conley and Peggy Smith talking with Albert Strauss and Margo True. 7 pm. Jewish Community Center, 3200 California. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 26: The Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals Association meets at Bank of America, 4098 24th, 9 am. 641-8687; noevalleymerchants.com.

Feb. 26: 18 Reasons hosts a COMMUNITY DINNER, Meze, featuring small vegetarian dishes. 3674 18th. 568-2710; 18reasons.org.

Feb. 27: FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 387-2125; sfpl.org.

Feb. 27: Olive This Olive That hosts a “Bring Your Own Bread” HAPPY HOUR on the last Thursday of the month. 6 pm. 304 Vicksburg. 251-7520.

Feb. 27-March 8: Students from Ruth Asawa School of the Arts perform MONTY PYTHON’S *Spamalot*. Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 pm matinee. 555 Portola. sfsota.org.

March 1: Registration for SPRING CLASSES at the Upper Noe Rec Center begins at 10 am. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

March 1: Construction is scheduled to begin on the Mission Dolores Park RENOVATION; a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 10 am. 581-2561; jacob.gilchrist@sfgov.org.

March 1: Nell Robinson performs an 8 pm concert for SF LIVE ARTS (Noe Valley Music Series). St. Cyprian’s, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 1 & 2: The SF HISTORY EXPO 2014 features exhibits by more than 50 local organizations. Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. The Old Mint, 88 Fifth. sfhistoryexpo.org.

March 2: Music on the Hill presents a CONCERT by the Stern Trio. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine. 820-1429; musiconthehill.org.

March 3: Former SF supervisor Carol Ruth Silver introduces her new book, *FREEDOM RIDER Diary*. 7 pm. Books Inc, 601 Van Ness. 776-1111.

2014 Marches On

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **March 2014** issue, distributed the first week of March. The deadline for items is **Feb. 15**. You may email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, SF, CA 94146. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

2014 CITY ARTS & LECTURES

ALL PROGRAMS AT THE NOURSE, 7:30PM

ON ART & POLITICS

THURS FEB 13
BJ NOVAK
Comedian + Actor + *The Office*
One More Thing: Stories And Other Stories
In conversation with PAUL LANCAUR

THURS FEB 20
KELLY CORRIGAN
Glitter & Glue + The Middle Place + Lift
ANNA QUINDLEN
Object Lessons + Living Out Loud
Lot Of Candles, Plenty Of Cake

WED MAR 5
ALAIN DE BOTTON
The News: A User’s Manual
How Proust Can Change Your Life
ADAM GOPNIK
The New Yorker • Paris To The Moon

FRI MAR 7
DARLENE LOVE
20 Feet From Stardom
IN CONVERSATION & CONCERT
Hosted by STEVEN WINN

THURS APR 10
TONY KUSHNER
The Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide To Capitalism And Socialism + Angels In America
In conversation with STEVEN WINN

THURS APR 17
DANI SHAPIRO
Still Writing + Devotion + Family History
AYELET WALDMAN
Love & Treasure • Bad Mother • Red Hook Road
In conversation with MICHAEL KRASNY

MON APR 21
JOHN HODGMAN
The Daily Show + New York Times Magazine
Ask Judge John Hodgman
In conversation with
ADAM SAVAGE
Mythbusters + Unchained Reaction

WED APR 30
OLYMPIA SNOWE
Former U.S. Senator From Maine (R)
Fighting For Common Ground
In conversation with ROY EISENHARDT



MON MAR 31
PIPER KERMAN
Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison
In conversation with NANCY MULLANE
A Benefit for Prison University Project

MON APR 7
LORRIE MOORE
New Short Story Collection: *Bark*
MONA SIMPSON
My Hollywood + Anywhere But Here
In conversation with RICK KLEFFEL

THURS MAY 1
MICHAEL POLLAN
The Omnivore’s Solution: In Defense of Food
* This event is being filmed by Kikim Media for a forthcoming documentary

THURS MAY 8
JANET NAPOLITANO
President, University of California
Former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
In conversation with ROY EISENHARDT

TUES MAY 13
JESSYE NORMAN
Soprano + New Memoir: *Stand Up Straight and Sing*
In conversation with
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

MON MAY 19
RUTH REICHL
Tender At The Bone + New Novel: Delicious!
In conversation with LEAH GARCHIK

MON JUNE 2
EDWARD ST. AUBYN
The Patrick Melrose Novels:
Mother’s Milk, At Last, Some Hope
In conversation with STEVEN WINN

TICKETS + INFORMATION: WWW.CITYARTS.NET or 415-392-4400



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

TUE FEB 4

KURT TIMMERMEISTER • GROWING A FEAST: THE CHRONICLE OF A FARM TO TABLE MEAL • 6:30-7:30P.M. FREE • In his highly acclaimed *Growing a Farmer*, Timmermeister recounted the toil and joy of wrestling an empty plot of land on Vashon Island, Washington, into a dairy farm. Now he tells the story of a feast made from only what the farm provides.

THR FEB 6

VIKAS KHANNA • RETURN TO THE RIVERS • 6:30-7:30P.M. FREE • *In Return to the Rivers*, Michelin-starred Indian chef and MasterChef India host Vikas Khanna shares an incredible collection of recipes, photos, and memories as a means to preserve and share the sacred foodways and values of the Himalayan peoples.

THR FEB 13

HEATHER ARNDT ANDERSON • BREAKFAST: A HISTORY • 6:30-7:30P.M. FREE • From corn flakes to pancakes, *Breakfast: A History* explores this “most important meal of the day” as a social and gastronomic phenomenon. It explains how and why the meal emerged, what is eaten commonly in this meal across the globe, why certain foods are considered indispensable, and how it has been depicted in art and media.

SAT FEB 15

CHRIS KRESSER • YOUR PERSONAL PALEO CODE: THE 3-STEP PLAN TO LOSE WEIGHT, REVERSE DISEASE, AND STAY FIT AND HEALTHY FOR LIFE • 3-4P.M. FREE • Kresser uses the Paleo diet as a baseline from which you can tailor the ideal three-step program: Reset, Rebuild, Revive-to fit your lifestyle, body type, genetic blueprint, and individual needs. Kresser helps further personalize your prescription for specific health conditions, from heart disease and high blood pressure to thyroid disorders and digestive problems.

TUE FEB 25

OFF-SITE EVENT! • SUE CONLEY & PEGGY SMITH, IN CONVERSATION WITH ALBERT STRAUSS & MARGO TRUE JCCSF • 7:00P.M. • A post-college hippie trip to San Francisco in 1976 led Sue Conley and Peggy Smith to establish careers in some of the Bay Area’s most famous kitchens and eventually to found Cowgirl Creamery in Pt. Reyes Station. *Cowgirl Creamery Cooks*, is a primer on tasting, buying, storing, pairing and appreciating cheese and includes a sumptuous collection of cheese-based recipes. Get Tickets at www.jccsf.org/arts-ideas/lectures

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It’s All in the Game at Upper Noe Rec Center

Upper Noe continues its parade of winter courses, offered through mid-March at 295 Day St. There are classes in yoga, basketball, tennis, tango, karate, and acting, plus a heart-pounding boot camp on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Drop in and line up at the net to play volleyball on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Or you might want to try ping-pong—just ask for the table.

To view course offerings at all city parks, go to www.sfreconline.org. Spring registration begins March 1; you can sign up for day camp starting March 15. For the most up-to-date schedule at Upper Noe, including open gym hours, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or stop by the center. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joby’s Dog Run, at the Church Street end of the park, is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER CLASSES

MONDAY	
Tennis (7-12 yrs old)	Mon., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	
Indoor Soccer (30-42 mos)	Tues., 10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun (10 mos-3 yrs old)	Tues., 10-11:30 a.m.
Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs old)	Tues., 10:15-11:45 a.m.
Movin’ & Groovin’ (2-4 yrs old)	Tues., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tot Free Play	Tues., 1-3:30 p.m.
Indoor Soccer (5-8 yrs old)	Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Tennis (8-13 yrs old)	Tues., 3:30-5 p.m.
Combat Athletics, Intermediate (8-16 yrs old)	Tues., 4-5 p.m.
Indoor Soccer (9-12 yrs old)	Tues., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Pastry Arts (adult)	Tues., 6-8 p.m.
Tennis (adult intermediate)	Tues., 6-7 p.m.
Yoga (adult)	Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Boot Camp (adult)	Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	
Baby and Me (18-36 mos)	Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Tot Tennis (4-5 yrs old)	Wed., 10:30-11 a.m.
Pilates (adult)	Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tot Free Play	Wed., 1-2:30 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs old)	Wed., 3-4 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (5-6 yrs old)	Wed., 5-6 p.m.
Tennis (5-8 yrs old)	Wed., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Junior Warriors Basketball Team (kindergarten)	Wed., 4-5 p.m.
Junior Warriors Basketball Team (1st/2nd grade)	Wed., 5-6 p.m.
Food in Jars (adult)	Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.
Tennis (adult beginner/intermediate)	Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.
Volleyball (drop-in only)	Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY	
Indoor Soccer (30-42 mos)	Thurs., 10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun (10 mos-3 yrs old)	Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m.
Movin’ & Groovin’ (2-4 yrs old)	Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tennis (adult intermediate)	Thurs., noon-1:30 p.m.
Argentine Tango, beginner (55+)	Thurs., 1-4 p.m.
Yoga (adult)	Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Core Stability and Balance (adult)	Thurs., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
FRIDAY	
Baby and Me (18-36 mos)	Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates (adult)	Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tot Free Play	Fri., 1-3 p.m.
So You Think You Can Act (7-11 yrs old)	Fri., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Skateboarding (5-13 yrs old)	Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
Combat Athletics (8-10 yrs old)	Fri., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Combat Athletics (11-16 yrs old)	Fri., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Future Chefs (9-13 yrs old)	Fri., 6:30-8 p.m.
Women’s Futsal (drop-in only)	Fri., 6:30-8 p.m.
SATURDAY	
Boot Camp (adult)	Sat., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Indoor Soccer (3-4 yrs old)	Sat., 10-11 a.m.
Tot Free Play	Sat., 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (varies)
Pastry Arts (adult)	Sat., 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tennis (5-8 yrs old)	Sat., 1-2 p.m.
Racquets and Hoops (10-12 yrs old, girls)	3:30-5 p.m.



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LIBRARY EVENTS

Award-Winning Sidney Poitier Film: To commemorate Black History Month, the Noe Valley branch will show the film for which Sidney Poitier won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964.* Check www.sfpl.org for more information. Saturday, Feb. 8, 4 p.m.

StoryCorps @ Your Library: Facilitators from StoryCorps will visit the Noe Valley Library to help you record your story around the themes of the book and growing up in San Francisco. To schedule an appointment, call 415-557-4277 or email publicaffairs@sfpl.org. For more details, visit www.storycorps.org. Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

eReaders Invited to Drop In: Learn how to borrow an eBook from the large selection available through the San Francisco Library. Bring your Kindle, iPad, Nook, or other mobile device to a drop-in session Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Great Books Discussion Group: The topic at February's Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco, will be the Greek tragedy *Antigone*, by Sophocles. Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee: Each month, the Noe Valley Library screens a feature film based on a book. Check www.sfpl.org or call the library for more details.* Friday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m.

Opera for the People: Larry Oppenheim, president of the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, will discuss and show clips from the opera *Rusalka*, composed by Antonín Dvořák. Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 to 3 p.m.

Newcomers are welcome at the **Noe Valley Book Discussion Group**. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

*The San Francisco Public Library has a movie licensing agreement that bars it from publishing in newspapers the titles of films shown at Library events.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Oliver Twist by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Much Ado About Words

The Big Bad Wolf, the Meanest Birthday Girl, and Shakespeare are all featured in this month's list of books and DVDs, offered by Adult Services Librarian Susan Higgins and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr. You can find the books and films at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street, or it might help to search online first at www.sfpl.org. Also, take note that StoryCorps will be visiting the branch on Feb. 8, hoping to hear and record your stories about growing up in San Francisco (see *Library Events*).

Children's Fiction

- A young boy does chores with Mom while waiting impatiently for flakes to fall in *Big Snow* by Jonathan Bean. Ages 3-6.
- *Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle* by Chris Raschka takes a little girl through all the steps, from picking a bike to pedaling without training wheels. Ages 4-8.
- Hannah comes up with a way to get the best of her bossy older sister in *Dee Dee and Me* by Amy Schwartz. Ages 5-8.
- Penguin paramedics bring a wolf with a choking problem to the hospital in *Urgency Emergency! Big Bad Wolf!* by Dosh Archer. Ages 5-8.
- Because today is her birthday, Dana at first thinks she can do anything she wants, in *The Meanest Birthday Girl* by Josh Schneider. Ages 6-9.
- *The Hypnotists* by Gordon Korman is a sci-fi adventure about a boy who has color-changing eyes that can mesmerize others. Ages 8-11.
- In Peter Abrahams' *The Outlaws of Sherwood Street: Giving to the Poor*, Robbie Forester and her band of fearless friends take on Sheldon Gunn, the dastardly developer who wants to build a high-rise on a Native American burial site. Ages 9-13.



Children's Nonfiction

- *Your Skeleton Is Showing*, by Kurt Cyrus with illustrations by Crab Scrambly, is filled with humor and "rhymes of blunder from six feet under." Ages 3-7.
- *The Animal Book* is an illustrated collection of "the fastest, fiercest, toughest, cleverest, shyest—and most surprising—animals on Earth," compiled by Steve Jenkins. Ages 6-9.
- A mouse will guide you through a colorful history of ancient Rome in *The Romans: Gods, Emperors, and Dormice* by Marcia Williams. Ages 8-12.
- Explore the quirky personalities of wild dolphins living in western Australia in *The Dolphins of Shark Bay* by Pamela S. Turner, with photos by Scott Tuason. Ages 9-14.

Adult Fiction

- Peter Quinn's thriller *Dry Bones* is the story of an ill-fated U.S. spy mission during World War II.
- A secretive organization employs "poets" to control the minds of others in *Lexicon* by Max Barry.
- Gold Dagger winner Gene Kerrigan writes about organized crime in Dublin in *Dark Times in the City*.
- In the sci-fi novel *Burning Paradise* by Robert Charles Wilson, the world has been at peace since 1918.

Adult Nonfiction

- In *Le Pain Quotidien Cookbook*, Alain Coumont and Jean-Pierre Gabriel present simple soup, salad, sandwich, and dessert recipes from Le Pain Quotidien bakery, whose roots are in Belgium.
- Pete Brown, named "the beer drinker's Bill Bryson" by the *Times Literary Supplement*, tells the story of *Shakespeare's Pub: A Barstool History of London As Seen Through the Windows of its Oldest Pub, the George Inn*.
- *Beautiful LEGO* by Mike Doyle contains pictures of LEGO artwork for adults, including replicas of everyday objects.
- *The Art of Bulgari: La Dolce Vita and Beyond, 1950–1990*, by Martin Chapman and Amanda Triossi, is the catalog for the recent exhibition at the de Young Museum.

Films on DVD

- William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* is a film of a live production at London's Globe Theatre, staged in 2011 by Jeremy Herrin and directed for the screen by Robin Lough.
- Newly released on DVD, *Wild River* is a 1960 drama about a small town that must be evacuated to make room for a new dam. The movie, starring Montgomery Clift, was produced and directed by Elia Kazan.
- The Italian comedy *Reality*, directed by Matteo Garrone, tells the story of a fishmonger obsessed with becoming a contestant on a reality TV show.
- *On the Road*, a 2012 film based on the Jack Kerouac book, directed by Walter Salles Jr., stars Sam Riley, Viggo Mortensen, Kristen Stewart, and Kirsten Dunst.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Find-and-Seek Fibers Workshop

Led by Green Art Workshop instructors, participants will use paper, fabric, and discarded materials to create a large interlocking quilt inspired by the plantation-day quilts of Gee's Bend, Ala. Call 355-5707 to preregister for this workshop, recommended for ages 6 and up. Space is limited. Thursday, Feb. 20, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Julius Caesar Performed

Shakespeare on Tour presents *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare's tale of politics, greed, and corruption in ancient Rome, directed by Stephen Muterspaugh. You won't want to miss Mark Antony's "Friends, Romans, countrymen" speech, Brutus' struggle with his conscience, and the dramatic final battle scene. Recommended for ages 9 and up. Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Toddler Tales Retold

Little ones 16 months to age 2 and their caregivers will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and movement led by Children's Librarian Miss Catherine. Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13, and 20, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel 16 mm Films

Children ages 3 to 5 with parent or caregiver are invited to watch short animation and live-action movies, many based on books. Thursday, Feb. 27, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5		10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6	
Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	12-6	10-9	12-9	10-6	1-6	1-6	
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	10-6	10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6	
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	1-9	10-9	10-9	10-6	1-6	10-6	

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**A San Francisco
Symphony**

By Miranda Phaal

The typical symphonic orchestra consists of four sections: the percussion section, the brass section, the woodwind section, and the string section.

I was born in San Francisco, the phoenix city. Risen from its own ashes. It is a city of dreams, built on blood and fire and rubble. It is so heavy with hope lost and found that sometimes the ground can do nothing but split beneath the strain.

The tap-clop of thousands of shoes on brick and concrete and tile is the chaotic percussion, the beat kept in time by the deep pounding drums of construction and collision.

There is earth beneath the streets. It is not concrete all the way down, as I once thought. When I was younger I actually wondered how they built the sidewalks. How could they move their diggers and cement mixers forward on solid ground if they had yet to build the next square of it?

The brass—the clang of metal, the blare of car horns, the deep rumble or high scream of things in motion.

I was sung to sleep by the ghostly wail of the streetcar sliding by outside my window, the lights of the city filtering in through the curtains and moving across my walls, long after any light but the moon had a business to shine.

The woodwind is the whisper of voices in layers of conversations only ever heard in pieces, the hush of secrets, accented by the cry of the child and the yell of the angry commuter. The harmony, if you will.

I grew up with concrete beneath my feet, and steel, brick, glass, and sodium light at my back. The telephone and bus wires stretched out in a black web over my head. At first, I thought they were the bars to my cage, that I was a bird who longed to fly in the great green open spaces of the countryside. I felt trapped. But then I was let out.

The strings, ah the strings! These are the sounds you hear that you do not expect. A heart-song from a street corner, the peal of old church bells, the wind whistling through metal in that perfect way. This is the melody.

When I was older I began to travel. I saw great cities and strange creatures and different people and arresting natural beauty. I have been as far from home as is earthly possible, and after my adventure was done I found there was no place I'd rather return to than the ash and fog and magic of my city. My home.

Together, they form the symphony.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Miranda Phaal has lived on Church Street off and on for 13 years. The high school senior enjoys writing poetry, short stories, and novels. She's been published in several online publications and self-published two collections of short stories and poems through Blurb.com. "I will be leaving my beloved San Francisco for college next year," Phaal says, "though I do not yet know where I will end up."

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Back in the Saddle Again

By Mazook

WHILE YOU WERE OUT: Welcome back from your vacations and stay-cations—there's been lots of local news. Muni "bulb-outs" are coming to 24th Street (see page 1 of this issue)... Upper Noe Valley is booming, with La Nebbia joining the other eight restaurants at the end of Church Street (can you name them all?) and with Cardio-Tone fitness studio expanding into the former Safeway store at Church and 29th streets, which has been vacant longer than it's been occupied during the last 10 years...

The Noe Valley Town Square is a hot topic and also the subject of a documentary being produced by a local resident... The Farmers Market Music Series is hopping, with one performer receiving national recognition... Neighborhood icon Bob Roddick is getting the Walter P. Jebee Award from the San Francisco Council of District Merchants...

Sway has swung over to the Haight, and the old Streetlight Records headquarters is again vacant, but not for long... Saw Noe Valley celeb Ben Fong-Torres in Folio Books and he says he hopes to make an appearance there this year... Just for Fun refloored their store (nice, guys)... Another title company has arrived in Noe Valley... The vacant store on the corner of 24th and Diamond is still vacant... Ditto the restaurant at the corner

of Church and 25th streets, where the newspaper covering the windows dates back to January 2013... But where should we start?



BUILD WE MUST: The Town Square plan is moving forward in earnest, and 2014 should see a groundbreaking. The Residents for Noe Valley Town Square have added a key member to the team, one who will volunteer her services as project director for construction of the square (or should we say rectangle?).

"We are absolutely gratified that Noe Valley resident Alison Jones, Ph.D., P.E., has agreed to become Project Manager in the building of our Town Square," says RNVTS spokesperson Todd David. "We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Alison's experience and expertise volunteering her time as the project manager."

Jones is vice president and principal engineer at Arcadis, an international company that, according to its website, "provides consultancy, design, engineering, and management services in the fields of Infrastructure, Water, Environment, and Buildings."

However, the main item on the Residents' agenda is fundraising, and they still await word on their Prop. 84 Urban Greening grant application.

"Out of the \$560,000-plus that has been pledged, we have collected roughly \$330,000 and have sent out emails to all those who have not paid that they should make their check payable to the SF Parks Alliance c/o Todd David, 384 Eureka St., 94114, please," says David.

With tongue halfway in cheek, David smilingly adds, "We are thinking of forming a 'collections committee' to address this and start dialing for the dollars."

David also reports that Noe native

Gabriel Golvin-Klein is producing a documentary on the genesis of *Our Town Square*. A two-minute trailer for the film is on YouTube—just search "Our Town Square trailer." The doc should be finished "early this year."

Lastly, David wants to remind everyone that the present Town Square, albeit unimproved, "is available through Rec and Park for special events permits, and we encourage neighbors to consider staging an event there, and will have someone who can help with the Rec and Park contacts." The Saturday Farmers Market gets its permits from Rec and Park weekly.

The "point people" for permits at RNVTS are volunteers Jim and Brenda Steinberg, 25th Street residents, and they can be reached at Brenda@noevalleytownsquare.com. To contact David, write Todd@noevalleytownsquare.com.



FIELDS GOOD: In a related item, Farmers Market Music Series producer Richard Hildreth reports that one of the musicians who appears there often, 13-year-old synthesizer player Henry Plotnick, has just released his first album, *Fields*, on the Holy Mountain record label. Dave Segal, music critic for *The Stranger*, a Seattle-based weekly, gave Plotnick a rave review and his top vote as the Best Album of 2013 in the *Village Voice's* annual Pazz & Jop Poll. You might have seen Plotnick at the Noe Valley Harvest Fest as well.

"I just think it is pretty remarkable," says Hildreth. Plotnick's music, described as "looped and layered minimalist piano and synth patterns," has qualities of Philip Glass and Brian Eno. It's very meditative. By the way, Henry's mom is singer Allison Faith Levy (ex-Sippy Cups), and his dad, Danny Plot-

nick, is a filmmaker and the director of Film Studies at USF. Performances by Plotnick at SF MOMA and the Other Cinema can be found on YouTube by searching "Henry Plotnick."



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS (AND LEFTS): Cardio-Tone owner Rachel Aram has succeeded in her quest to find a second location for her expanding business. Last October, she moved all the "spinning" and personal trainer classes out of her space next to Shufat Market (3813 24th) and located them in the wee space on 24th next to St. Clair's Liquors. "Spin closet" became its nickname. But it was just temporary.

By year's end, Cardio-Tone had signed a lease for the old Kohler Jones spot (a onetime Safeway store) on the corner of Day and Church streets. Aram completed renovations in the spacious storefront—including fixing the plumbing, installing a water fountain, partitioning and sound-proofing the walls, painting, and adding new exercise equipment—and opened the new gym on Dec. 15.

"We are really happy with this space and especially that we were able to expand in Noe Valley," says manager Shannon Boughn, who lives within walking distance of both Cardio-Tones. At Cardio-Tone Church, she says, "we are offering a lot of spinning classes (stationary bike) and circuit-training classes (jump rope) and TRX (total resistance training), Pilates, and yoga classes that combine with the spinning classes," says Boughn. (Cardio-Tone 24th will focus on the quieter yoga and Pilates classes.)

"Right now we have almost 175 people enrolled in our classes and now have space to accommodate more, with classes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

NoeValleyVictorian.com



Victorian or not, Dan lives and specializes in Noe Valley

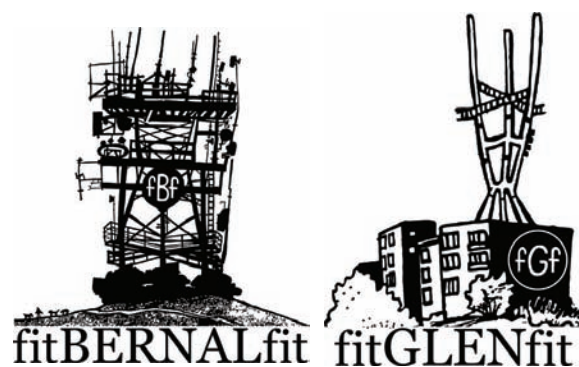
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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

starting bright and early at 6 a.m.,” Boughn says.

KICKING BACK: A few blocks away at 1513 Church St., near Comerford Alley, you’ll find a startup company called BackerKit, which moved in December. It makes a pledge management program that works with platforms like Kickstarter to help crowd-funded project creators collect money. (If you’re getting a headache, you might want to skip a couple of paragraphs.)

Here’s part of the company’s pitch: “Creators can track the rewards owed to backers [and] perform some higher-level customer management, like tracking domestic and international backers, but the service’s killer app is the ability to help collect more money after [a] campaign is over.”

“It’s pretty simple: Kickstarter raises money for a creator who needs money for a project,” says Max Salzberg, who with designer Rosanna Yau founded BackerKit. “Well, we write the software program for the project creators to keep track of their backers and provide both with [help in] tracking the ‘rewards’ [that have accrued to the backers],” says Salzberg. All right, then.

BackerKit now has six members and about 250 subscribers, many of them game creators, who pay \$99 or more per month for their service.

Salzberg says it was “a relief” to find the space on Church Street. “The company was previously located in my living room.”

WAXING ELOQUENT: Going up Church Street to 1301, at 25th Street, we find that a waxing studio called La Tira has opened on the corner formerly occupied by Dermalounge, which closed abruptly last October (leaving a lot of people who had prepaid in the lurch).

“I am so excited this space became available,” says licensed esthetician Christine Fong about the corner site. “I was able to move out of the space kindly provided me by Episode Spa down the street.”

Fong has been very busy with her waxing services, which she started as a pop-up in January of last year.

TOP OF THE POPS: The most popular fiction at Folio Books is *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt and *Dear Life: Stories* by the Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro. In the nonfiction category, the tops are *Cool Grey City of Love* by Gary Kamiya, *Hyperbole and a Half* by Allie Brosh (on the humor shelf), and *Hard Luck* by Jeff Kinney in the children’s department.

Over at Omnivore Books, the fave is *Jerusalem: A Cookbook* by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi.

And your favorite movie for rent at Video Wave is *The Butler*, starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey.

SHORT SHRIFTS: The soft opening of La Nebbia on Dec. 13 was attended by over 300 people, says Chef Massimiliano Conti, a huge crowd. He invited his regular customers at La Ciccia a week before, but attributes the large number to the fact that the food and wine were free...

Be forewarned: the Noe Valley Post Office has shortened its hours to 9:30 to 5 on weekdays, and 9:30 to 4 on Satur-

days. Lobby hours are still 8:30 to 5, Monday through Saturday, though...

During the Wine Walk in early December, Sanchez Street merchant Liz Winsor at Decor Galore, though not officially part of the Walk, was handing out free tequila shots, and “it was good tequila, too,” says our source... Congrats to Gallery of Jewels (24th at Castro) for an honorable mention as one of the Coolest Stores of 2013 in *Instore Magazine*...

And finally, reliable sources say don’t expect a return of Bliss Bar, the 24th Street lounge that suffered a serious fire last February.

RENT AND RAVE: New to Downtown Noe Valley is Stewart Title Company. It took over the long-vacant office space that used to house B.J. Droubi Real Estate at 4126 24th St. (next to Barney’s). This is Stewart Title’s fourth location in San Francisco.

Manager Georgine Lonero is happy to finally get back to her roots. She was born and raised in Upper Noe Valley (aka St. Paul’s Parish), and graduated from St. Paul’s High School in 1973.

“I have been doing this kind of work now for 41 years, both in residential and commercial real estate, and I love Noe Valley but now live in San Bruno, so this was my opportunity to work in my home neighborhood,” says Lonero.

She says that Stewart Title phoned her “almost six months ago and asked me what it would take for me to leave the company I was with and work for them, and my response was I would join them if they opened an office in Noe Valley. They said yes and here I am.”

And the space just vacated by Sway is available for rent. According to Rockwell Realty’s Mark Kaplan, the real estate broker representing the owner, the build-

ing—the commercial space and two residential units upstairs—has been sold and should be closing very soon, “and we also have a back-up offer, both at \$2.2 million.”

The store, which has 1,980 square feet, is for rent for \$12,000 per month, plus a share of the building’s expenses. Sway was paying, according to Kaplan, \$8,000 per month. Retail, anyone?

KUDOS GO OUT to Bob Roddick, who will receive the Walter P. Jeebe Award for Exceptional and Outstanding Service to the small business community. The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations will present the award at a dinner ceremony at the Concordia-Astronaut Club on Feb. 6.

Roddick, a longtime Noe Valley resident and attorney, has been president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professional Association since 2009, and a director of the NVMPA since 1994. Before practicing law, he was a San Francisco firefighter and a founding member in 1973 of the St. Francis Hook and Ladder Society, which paints the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church.

THAT’S THIRTY. Before I go, I want to express my condolences to the family of Mike Skoufas, who passed away in early December at age 86. Mike opened a barbershop in Noe Valley in 1953 called Mike’s, and snipped the locks of Noe Valley until his retirement 10 years ago. He cut my hair and gave me rumors over the years and had great knowledge about Downtown Noe Valley.

His daughter, Stephanie Smith, worked at his side for many of those years and owns and operates Of Barbers and Bears.

Thanks for the memories, Mike. And to all of you, ciao for now.

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But we also have to point out that if you want something like it from another store, you might have to wait years.

MOLLIE STONE’S

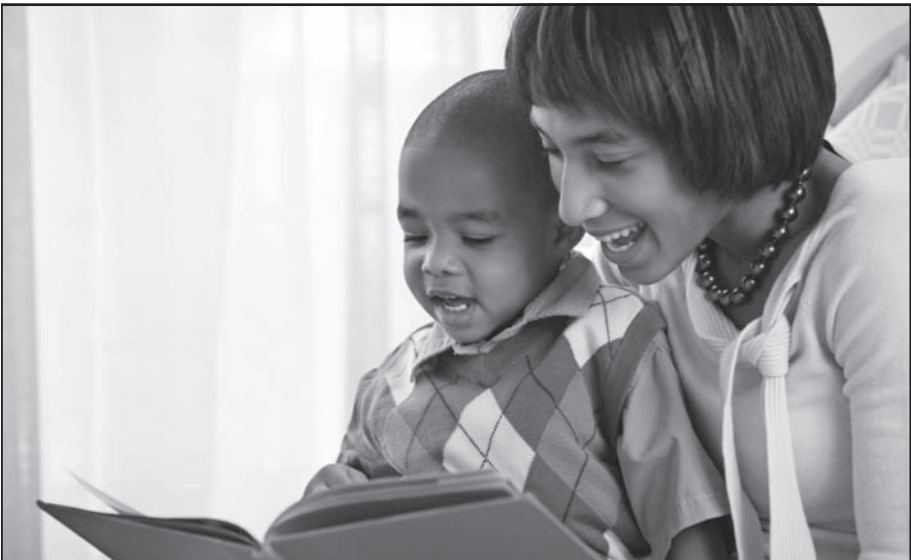
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Contact: 621-0120
Email: info@capasf.org
Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

Website: www.evna.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

Castro Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m. (March through December), Noe Street at Market Street
Contact: Steve Adams, 431-2359
Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; www.CastroMerchants.com

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Email: dhic123@gmail.com
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

Dolores Park Works

Contact: Robert Brust, 713-9061
Email: Robert@doloresparkworks.org
Website: www.doloresparkworks.org
Meetings: Call or email for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
Email: sflyric@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Email for details.

Fair Oaks Community Coalition

Contact: Andy Segal, President
Email: focc.neighbors@gmail.com
To become a member of FOCC's Google group, email pnerger@gmail.com.
Meetings revolve around activities such as the May Fair Oaks Street Fair.

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: www.friendsofdolorespark.org
Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually; held at St. Philip's Church or James Lick School

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre, Kate Haug, or Molly Sterkel
Email: info@noevalleyreccenter.com
Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: Email or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Contact: 835-8720
Email: info@castromerchants.com
Mailing address: 584 Castro St. #333, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Call for details.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call Ron Vanini, 596-7089.
Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org.
Website: www.noevalleyassociation.org
Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Hunter Stern, 643-0602
Email: info@noevalleydems.org
Meetings: Third Wednesdays, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm meeting dates.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

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

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com
Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687

Meetings: Last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April, July, October, and November, at Bank of America, second floor, 9 a.m. Breakfast meetings May and September at Noe's Nest, 10 a.m.
Website: www.NoValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

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

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
Email: mfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Occupy Noe

Contacts: Kathy Lipscomb, 415-641-1997; Susan McDonough, 415-734-0061
Website: <http://occupynoe.org/wordpress/>
Meetings: Call for details

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Residents for Noe Valley Town Square

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com
Website: www.noevalleytownsquare.com
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores

Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480
Email: safecleangreen@bigfoot.com
Website: www.safecleangreen.com

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Email: president@uppernoeneighbors.com
Meetings: Quarterly. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St., 7:30 p.m.



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Readers Share their Love of Travel



Barbara Slotnik and **Steve Kerns** rocked Iran during their recent visit. Residents of Noe Valley for 32 years, the couple enjoyed their trip to the ancient ruins of Persepolis pictured above.

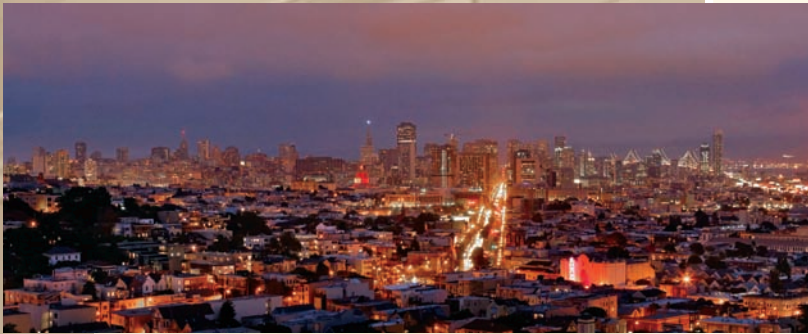


Loyal Voice reader **Leslie Lum** displays her multi-tasking ability at Planet Granite in the Presidio here in San Francisco.



Noe Valley resident **Mike Beere** takes a reading break in Dublin in front of the famed statue of Molly Malone.

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www.NewListing94121.com • Offered at \$1,359,000
Robert Moffatt 415-722-4038 rmoffatt@mcguire.com



GLEN PARK • 175 BROMPTON

Lovely home in the heart of Glen Park. Two bedrooms and one nicely remodeled bathroom. Charming remodeled kitchen. Light filled living room. Enclosed rear porch with garden view. Big utility room (could be office) on main level. Large foot print area of the home on lower level waiting for possible expansion or use it now. Wonderful large level rear garden. A great value in this highly desirable area!
www.175Brompton.com • Offered at \$690,000
Howard Reinstein 415-296-2105 hreinstein@mcguire.com



EUREKA VALLEY • 49 CASELLI AVENUE SOLD OVER ASKING

Spectacular and fully remodeled 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom luxury view home located in Eureka Valley! The home is flooded with natural light through a large skylight above the ornate stairway. The main level opens to an inviting formal entry way, living room w/fireplace, dining room, large open gourmet eat in kitchen with high-end appliances and French doors that open to the patio. The upper level has 3 spacious bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on one level and a master bedroom with captivating SF views. There are 2 other rooms on the lower level; one is a bedroom and the other an entertainment room, along with the 3rd bathroom. This home has been tastefully remodeled with attention detail and contemporary finishes. Don't miss this wonderful property that is close to cafes, playgrounds, public transportation, restaurants, HWY 101 & 280!

Offered at \$1,995,000

Jeff Salgado 415.296.2188 jsalgado@mcguire.com



NOE VALLEY • 1032 CASTRO • SOLD OVER ASKING

Fabulous light filled home in the heart of Noe Valley. Gorgeous wood floors grace this home that opens to a formal entry way, living room with views and a fireplace, along with a formal dining room. Two spacious bedrooms on the main level adjacent to a sun drenched deck that leads to the garden. A bright kitchen that is next to both an indoor and outdoor eating area and a full bath. Lower level has an additional bedroom & bathroom. Huge garage with storage and access to the backyard.
www.1032CastroStreet.com • Offered at \$959,000
Jeff Salgado 415-296-2188 jsalgado@mcguire.com



NOE VALLEY • 150-152 VICKSBURG • SOLD OVER ASKING

Spectacular two unit victorian building in a truly special Noe valley location! Both units are graced with gorgeous wood floors that are flooded with natural light and two spacious bedrooms. There is a huge garage with a separate laundry area and plenty of room for storage. Close to shopping, restaurants, cafes, playgrounds, public transportation, HWY 101 & 280!
www.150-152VicksburgStreet.com • Offered at \$1,059,000
Jeff Salgado 415.296.2188 jsalgado@mcguire.com



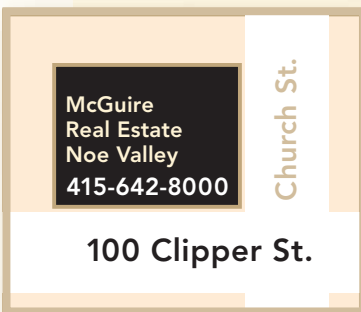
BERNAL HEIGHTS • 3318 FOLSOM ST • SOLD OVER ASKING

Spectacular and fully remodeled 4BD/3BA Victorian. The upper level is graced with gorgeous wood floors that are flooded with natural light; a master bedroom that opens to the sun drenched patio; additional bedroom, 2nd bathroom, open living/dining area, and a gourmet eat-in-kitchen with skylight. The lower level has a large entertainment room (or bedroom), laundry area, the 3rd bathroom, 4th bedroom, and an office area with backyard access. There is a large 2 car garage with interior access and plenty of room for storage.
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Jeff Salgado 415.296.2188 jsalgado@mcguire.com



GLEN PARK • 21 EVERSON • JUST SOLD!

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