



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

March 16–23: A Week to Celebrate The Written Word

Published Authors to Literally Appear

By Olivia Boler

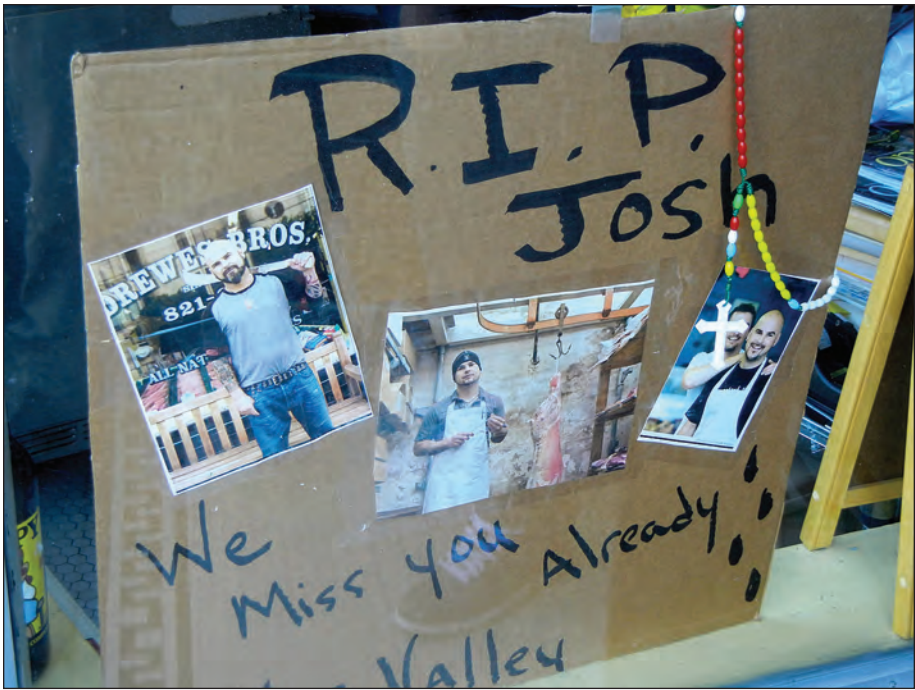
Without a doubt, the eighth annual Noe Valley Word Week is jam-packed. Sponsored by the group Friends of Noe Valley, the festival offers eight days of events, March 16 to 23, at six different venues, all of them free. That means no admission charge, and attendees may also benefit from enticements like tasty refreshments.

Of course, purchase of books and other items for sale is encouraged. “Part of Word Week is supporting our local authors and merchants, as well as giving neighbors and friends a reason to come together and talk to each other,” says organizer and author Richard May.

Are you ready? You might want to take notes. After all, it is Word Week, and writing is encouraged, whether it’s poetry, songs, or lists of things to do.

A Mixer for Children’s Book Fans

Things get started Sunday, March 16, with kid-centric fun, perfect for a week-end family activity. Head down to Folio



Instant Shrine. The death of the popular owner of Drewes Market caused a quick outpouring of heartache from co-workers, customers, and friends. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

Books, 3957 24th St., at 1:30 p.m.

First on the agenda is Story Time with **Maria van Lieshout**, the author/illustrator of nearly a dozen picture books. According to Martha Pettit, Folio Books’ assistant manager, van Lieshout is a native of the Netherlands, but now “lives in a 100-year-old Noe Valley Victorian with her husband Peter and their son Max Pelle.” She will be reading from her latest book, called *Catching Kisses*. It’s a

journey of kisses traveling around the world to places like San Francisco, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C.

The reading is followed at 2:30 p.m., by a unique social hour, the Noe Valley Children’s Book Authors and Fans Mixer. Are you a local author of children’s books or a children’s book enthusiast? “This is the mixer is for you,” Pettit says. All are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Neighborhood Mourns Loss of Josh Epple

Drewes Owner Killed in Motorcycle Accident

By Jan Goben and Corrie M. Anders

By the time 5 a.m. rolled around, Joey Napier was worried.

He couldn’t reach Josh Epple, his partner at Drewes Meats, and it was past time for the two of them to start preparing for the butcher shop’s usual Saturday gig at the Noe Valley Farmers Market.

“I was here at the shop and I kept calling him,” Napier remembered. “Where are you? Where are you?”

The painful answer came an hour later in a phone call from Epple’s wife, Valerie. Epple was dead at 42, the victim of a motorcycle accident in the early morning hours of Feb. 15.

Riding alone, Epple had somehow crashed his bike into a guardrail along the southbound lanes of Highway 101 in San Francisco. He was catapulted 30 feet to the ground near 10th Street.

Napier was stunned. “I didn’t believe it. My first reaction was no, that’s not true.”

As word spread—on email, TV news,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



On the Borderline. Night and morning fog spills over Twin Peaks into sleepy Noe Valley, moistening thoughts and dreams as locals look on the long roller-coaster trek that is 25th Street. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

It’s Tee Time for Steve Fox

Home Putt-Putt Pro Takes His Mini-Golf Course Public

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley entrepreneur Steve Fox is getting ready to open Urban Putt, a miniature golf course so delightfully whimsical that even George W. Bush would appreciate its only-in-San-Francisco wackiness.

Take the Rube Goldberg Hole, named for the famous cartoonist-engineer. When you putt the golf ball into the Goldberg cup, a giant Archimedes’ screw cycles the

dimpled sphere 12 feet off the ground and deposits it onto a long rail where it glides down the track before tumbling into a column of drums, cymbals, and bells. The haphazard bouncing of the ball in the tower creates a musical composition that is different each time.

Then there’s the San Francisco Earthquake Hole. The ball sets off motion sensors that trigger a monster quake, causing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Lotta Fun. “Head Greenskeeper” Steve Fox puts the finishing touches on Lotta’s Fountain, one of the novelties in his San Francisco–themed miniature golf course, opening April 18 in a former mortuary at the corner of 22nd Street and South Van Ness. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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- 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,
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

A Stroll in the Valley

Editor's Note: This puzzle has a quip about our neighborhood from Examiner columnist Debby Morse. But the quote is not in the usual place. See clues to find it.

ACROSS

1. Manner or fashion sense

6. Athlete "Lefty" with a Union Square restaurant

11. Neurosis of TV's Monk: Abbr.

14. Your shoe or tire might have one

15. Not troubled by: ___ problem with

16. Oldies group ___ Na Na

17. Easy way to find the quote (Part 1)

19. Vegan's protein source

20. Academy Award winning director ___ Lee

21. Letters in a help-wanted ad

22. Living quarters for Inuits

24. Employee at Noe Valley bakery

26. "Your presence ___ present" ("No gifts for us, please")

29. Wd. no longer used: Adj.

30. A tip for finding the quote (Part 2)

34. Leftover from a campfire

35. Kind of list

36. Eight fluid ounces

37. Reeves of Speed

40. Simpson Dad's expletive

41. Parkinson's disease drug

43. Usual day for casual wear: Abbr.

44. Sound of throat clearing

46. Hundred-and-eighty deg. turn

47. Best way to find the quote (Part 3)

53. Advertiser's "spokescow" for a

DOWN

1. Russian border part: Bering ___

2. Spy's kind of coat

3. One-of-a-kind test pilot Chuck ___

4. Fictional title dog

5. The Sopranos Emmy winner Falco

6. "Egads!"

7. Nat. to Natalie

8. Ursa, in Espanol

9. Sending electronically, but without using cabling

10. In need of editing, in a way

11. Name of a braised veal shank dish at Bacco

12. Group into, as sides in a game

13. TV's Happy ___

18. Horse sound

23. Email guffaw

25. Multicolored horse

27. Armchair companion

28. "Something went wrong"

31. Bar order, with "the"

32. Acute ailment for a baby

33. TLC haven

37. The Colonel's, for short

38. Electronics firm

local dairy

54. Breathing problem for a sleeper

55. It's about 2.5 centimeters

56. Explainer of science Isaac ___

58. Squirrel food

60. Idol- or radical- suffix

61. Nimitz' org.

62. Solution to finding the quote (Part 4)

66. Tic-tac-___

67. Renter's contract

68. Old standard: "You ___ Sunshine"

69. Little roles: walk ___

70. Lou Grant portrayer Ed

71. Engraved honor

from Sweden

39. Refer to 50-Down

40. Intense, as a purple

42. Noe Valley ___: 24th St. tenant before Griddle Fresh

45. Galoots, in crime flicks

46. Ryder rival

48. Add-on to a URL after the dot

49. Middle

50. SFO carrier, with 39-Down

51. Itchy rash cause

52. Nashville-based songster Crow

56. Car

57. Richard Kiley role, Man ___ Mancha

59. Oakland A's, for one

63. Was in charge

64. Direction that's a 46-Across from NNW

65. Square root of "nove"

Solution on Page 27

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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

Email: editor@noevalleyvoice.com
Editorial: 415-648-3927

Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com
Distribution: Call Misha, 415-752-1726

Display Advertising: Call Pat, 415-608-7634,
or email PatRose@noevalleyvoice.com
Class Ads: See Page 26

Display Advertising Deadline for the
April 2014 Issue: March 20, 2014
Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: March 15, 2014

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Contents © 2014 The Noe Valley Voice

LETTERS 49¢

A Bottom-Up Solution

Editor:

The irony... Before reading the *Noe Valley Voice* article on Glen Evans (February 2014), I broke a vow. The vow: that whenever I came across Glen I'd slip him a fiver. Last week, I quickly walked past him sitting on a bench, perhaps asleep. I checked my wallet for my cash, and saw only a single five. I chose to walk on down to get that coffee. I'm ashamed.

Glen is a very intelligent man. He reads and is up on national and international issues. He does not beg. He wants to live his life as it is, but only better. He does not want to be thrown into the system by *hope* and removed to some downtown crisis housing. Glen needs discrete help from the neighborhood. He does not want to be judged a neighborhood liability that needs to be shunned and shunted elsewhere.

For example, Glen would probably appreciate a key to the church parking lot on 24th Street. There, a \$350 Rubbermaid shed, you know, with the sliding top, can be parked. He can store his stuff there, and, wink, wink, sleep if necessary. He should have a once-a-week physical therapy session at a local massage parlor, where he is cleaned up while his clothes are sent out for laundering and his "shed" is tidied up. How much can that burden the neighborhood?

We can't institutionalize homelessness like the prison system. If Glen has hygiene problems, then let's deal with that issue. We need bottom-up solutions. Top-down doesn't really work, and at best can only be properly directed. What if one of our unused, bay-front parks became a

"homeless encampment" operated more like a "refugee center"?

Glen? I've always respected Glen.

Richard Peterson
Valley Street

Some Park Here to Use Shuttles

Editor:

I just wanted to bring to your attention something that maybe has not been addressed yet regarding tech buses running in Noe Valley.

I live on the 4200 block of 26th Street between Castro and Diamond and was wondering why it was getting really hard to park on my block during the day. I've lived here for 20 years, and parking was never a problem until maybe mid-2013. Sitting on my porch early this evening, I found out why. People from other areas of the city are parking on my block and taking the tech buses, which pick them up at James Lick Middle School or at 24th and Castro. No wonder I can't park on my own block, especially during the day!

I think the buses are a great option, but they should run where their clients live, so the riders who can't afford to live in Noe Valley don't have to come and park here just to take the buses. I would hate to have to resort to making my block a permit-parking block. This would hurt the riders of the buses and inconvenience the people on my block.

This problem has to be addressed eventually. The bus companies should poll their riders to find out where they actually live and where they want to be picked up. Stops and routes should be modified (like school buses) to fit the current ridership, since that is who they serve.

They are doing their riders and neighborhood people such as myself a disservice by running on preset/predetermined routes. If the people who rode the buses actually lived in Noe Valley, they wouldn't have to park here to ride the buses.

Cyrus Esteban
26th Street

Occupy Noe Joins the Alliance

Editor:

First of all, thank you for your work on the *Noe Valley Voice*. It's a pleasure to read each month.

We'd also like to let our neighbors know that Occupy Noe [which the *Voice* profiled in September 2012] has merged into ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment). ACCE has been doing anti-foreclosure work for some time.

The move just made sense, economies of scale and all that. Bernal Occupy did the same. We're still plugging along, fighting the good fight, however.

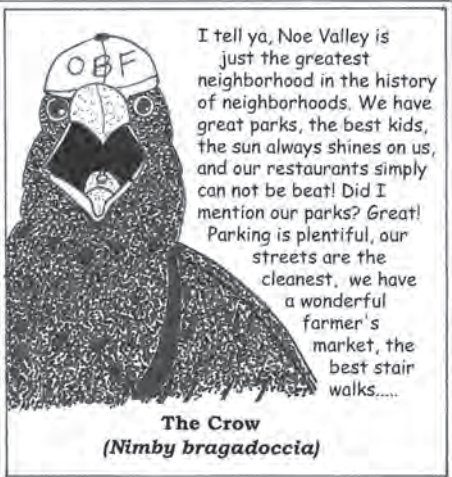
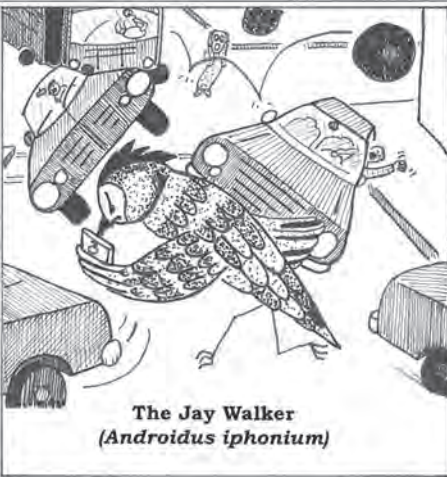
In San Francisco alone right now there are:

- 250 homes on the Radar Foreclosure list—most going to auction but a few in "pre-foreclosure";
- Another 350 homes in San Francisco that are "under water"; and
- Another 1,500 homes that the banks are holding back from foreclosure because they don't want to flood the market and for other reasons (Wells Fargo and Bank of America confirm this 1,500 number).

So the foreclosure crisis, contrary to public opinion, is far from over. Thank you again for all your support and coverage.

Susan McDonough and
Kathy Lipscomb
Occupy Noe
Noe Valley residents

The Birds of Noe Valley



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.



Upcoming Events

- 3.16: Marie Van Lieshout & Mike Adamick
- 3.17: Odd Mondays: Irish Literature
- 3.19: New Noe Fiction
- 3.23: Cara Black
- 3.25: Bill Yenne
- 3.31: Odd Mondays: Local Poets

Visit foliosf.com/events for details

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Notary Public Service

Word Week: A Lit Fest for Everyone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

welcome, young and old, to come for an afternoon of tea, cookies, and merriment.

“If you are a local Noe Valley author and would like to join in, contact Folio Books by emailing media@foliosf.com as soon as possible, so that we can be sure to have copies of your titles on hand for you to discuss and share with others,” Pettit adds.

Stick around after that, because at 4:30 p.m., it’s a Crafty Show-and-Tell with **Mike Adamick**, who is the Noe Valley author of *Dad’s Book of Awesome Projects: 25+ Fun Do-It-Yourself Projects for Families*. He’ll talk about his favorite projects, from stilts to superhero capes to seesaws, and—bonus!—provide craft goodie bags for his audience. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own projects to share.

Irish Lit on St. Pat’s Day

The next day, Monday, March 17, is, of course, St. Patrick’s Day. What better way to honor the Irish saint than with some words from the Emerald Isle? From 7 to



Kirstin Chen Photo by Sarah Deragon

From Kirstin Chen’s new novel *Soy Sauce for Beginners*

These are some of my favorite smells: toasting bagel, freshly cut figs, the bergamot in good Earl Grey tea, a jar of whole soybeans slowly turning beneath a tropical sun.

You’d expect the latter to smell salty, meaty, flaccid—like what you’d smell if you unscrewed the red cap of the bottle on a table in your neighborhood Chinese restaurant and stuck your nose in as far as it would go. But real, fermenting soybeans smell nothing like sauce in a plastic bottle. Tangy and pungent, like rising bread or wet earth, these soybeans smell of history, of life, of tiny, patient movements, unseen by the naked eye.

Everything I know about soy sauce I learned from my father and my uncle and my late grandfather. We are a family who can talk endlessly about soybeans and all of their intricacies. But that morning at the family soy sauce factory, I was in no mood to chat. The only thing on my mind was the ninety-degree heat. Heat rose from the ground through my thin-soled flats; it filled my nostrils, mouth, and ears. Sweat bloomed under my arms, in the creases of my elbows, in the pockets behind my knees. Even in the shade, beneath the factory’s red-striped awning, the air felt thick enough to drink. Flanked by my father and my uncle, I shifted my weight from one swollen foot to another and wished the clients would hurry up and get here.

Excerpted from “Soy Sauce for Beginners” by Kirstin Chen. ©2014 by Kirstin Chen. Published by Amazon Publishing/New Harvest January 2014. All rights reserved.

9 p.m., at Folio Books, the regular Odd Mondays Series, produced by writers **Judith Levy Sender** and **Ramon Sender**, puts on a Gaelic accent.

Noe Valley authors will read from their favorite Irish works in different genres, some related to their own ilk. The list of readers includes novelist **Scott Hutchins**, author of *A Working Theory of Love*; non-fiction writer **Mary Jo McConahay**, author of *Maya Roads*; poet **Dan Richman**, whose collection is titled *Farming in San Francisco*; story writer **Richard May**, who penned *Ginger Snaps: Photos & Stories*; and children’s author **Michelle Diaz Cannon** of *Ben Not a Puppy* fame.

In addition, there will be a reading by Wayne Goodman and Peggy Cling of a scene from Irish playwright John B. Keane’s 1963 work *The Year of the Hiker*. In keeping with the day, bonny refreshments will be on hand, including Jameson whiskey, Bailey’s Irish Cream, and homemade soda bread. Wear green to avoid getting pinched.

Smart Mice and a Little Lost Olive

Tuesday, March 18, offers a lot of variety. At Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Dou-glass St., middle-grade author **Prudence Breitrose** will visit. She’s penned two books aimed at the 8- to 12-year-old set, *Mousenet* and its sequel, *Mousemobile*. The books follow the adventures of rather evolved tech-savvy mice that use “thumbtop” computers to navigate the world and its woes, such as climate change. She’ll be at the school from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

After the kids get out of school, head over to Olive This Olive That, 304 Vicksburg St., for more story time. The purveyors of olive oils and more also offer an illustrated children’s book, *Coratina: A Little Lost Olive on a Journey of Discovery*, by Italian food expert **Orietta Gianjorio**. “It tells the tale of a stylish green olive’s adventures traveling around the world, meeting other types of olives, like Spanish Arbequinas,” says Janell Pekkain, the shop’s owner.

The book’s colorful illustrations are by Diamond Heights neighbor **Nathalie Fabri**, who will be in the shop from 3 to 5 p.m., sharing the book’s original artwork. Gianjorio, who is based in Northern California, will try to be there too. Taste some olive oil and listen to the stories.

A Book Swap for All

Throughout the day, people can drop off books at Olive This Olive That for a neighborhood book swap. The books will be put into different categories—mysteries, memoirs, novels, etc.—and from 7 to 9 p.m., on Wednesday, come pick out some new-to-you reading. Pekkain invites everyone to hang out and enjoy light refreshments and olive oil tastings.

“You can test your olive oil IQ with a fun quiz, and win a prize for the most correct answers,” she says.

If you can’t make it in that evening, books will still be available to swap throughout Word Week, so stop by later.

LGBT Books Featured

On Wednesday, March 19, head up to Cliché Noe Gift Store, 4175 24th St., for the LGBT Books Panel, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. There are four writers on the roster who “will discuss the queer creative process,” says Richard May.

Mark Abramson will talk about his memoir, *For My Brothers*, which recounts his time as a San Francisco bartender during the height of the AIDS crisis, from 1984 to 1996. **Tyler Cohen**, the creator of *Primahood* books, art comics that explore femaleness, feminist parenting, and what it takes to be a “Primazon,” joins him.

If you watch KQED or listen to its public radio station affiliate, you’re probably familiar with **Bud Gundy**. Did you know he’s also the author of a historical novel, *Elf Gift*? See the writer/producer/on-air host in person as he discusses his new work-in-progress, *The Averston Salt*.

Finally, **Dorian Katz**, who curated a gallery exhibition at the Center for Sex and Culture, will discuss the show *Safe Sex Bang: The Buzz Bense Collection of Safer Sex Poster Collection*. It was up at the Center in January, and includes more than 150 posters advocating safe sex from all over the United States and Europe. She’ll display some of the posters and also have the show’s catalog on hand.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the wine and cheese reception, and books will be available for purchase and autographs.

For Kids, Foodies, and Writers

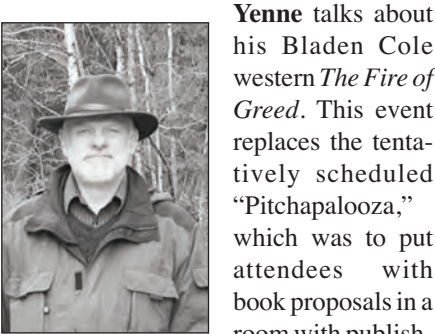
Noe Valley wee ones and their caretakers are quite familiar with Toddler Tales story time at the Noe Valley Branch Library, 451 Jersey St. Just about every Thursday, children’s librarian Catherine Starr leads tots ages 16 to 36 months in songs and stories twice each morning. She’ll be there, during Word Week on Thursday, March 20. Come from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., or 11 to 11:30 a.m. There’s stroller parking outside or by the elevator downstairs.

That evening, gourmands should head over to Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez St. at Church. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Anne Zimmerman**, the editor of the anthology *M.F.K. Fisher: Musings on Wine and Other Libations*, will chat about the beloved food writer. Naturally, wine will be served.

Afterwards, make your way to Folio Books, which will present “New Noe Novels” from 7:30 to 9 p.m. This event features four neighborhood authors with brand new books out. **Michael Castleman** is the author of *Killer Weed*, the latest installment in his Ed Rosenberg mystery series. Debut author **Kirstin Chen** has a splashy new novel, *Soy Sauce for Beginners* (see an excerpt at left), which May describes as a “foodie love story.” It’s been featured in *O Magazine* and on *USA Today*’s “New Voices” list.

Rob Rosen will chat about his cheeky drag-queens-versus-zombies epic, *Queens of the Apocalypse*, and **Bill Yenne** talks about his Bladen Cole western *The Fire of Greed*. This event replaces the tentatively scheduled “Pitchapalooza,” which was to put attendees with book proposals in a room with publishing professionals.

Instead, these local authors will talk about their road to publishing, so aspiring writers should attend.

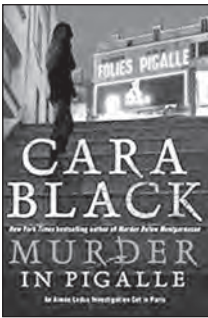


Rob Rosen

Bill Yenne

An Open Mic Night

Friday, March 21, the Noe Valley Library hosts a viewing of the movie *Akeelah and the Bee* from 2006. It’s the story of a neglected inner-city girl who has a shot at winning the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee. The movie, rated PG, starts at 3:30 p.m., and is appropriate



Cara Black and editor Juliet Grames will chat about Black’s latest Aimée Leduc mystery at Folio Books on March 23.

Photo by Laura Skayhan

for audiences 8 and older. Bonus: Noe Valley Bakery is donating cookies!

Also, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Cliché Noe, dust off your old notebook of poems or songs for the first Noe Valley Open Mic. It’s open to songwriters, poets, and writers. “We’ve wanted to do something around songwriting for a long time,” says May. Sign up in advance by emailing wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com or going to the Friends of Noe Valley website (friendsofnoevalley.com), or sign up on the day of the event at the shop before 7:30 p.m.

Fête Neighborhood Authors

Support your local writers! The Second Annual Noe Valley Authors Festival takes place Saturday, March 22, from 2 to 5 p.m. This year, it’ll be held in the Alvarado Elementary School cafeteria. Meet local authors from around the neighborhood as well as those from Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Twin Peaks, the Castro, the Mission, and Bernal Heights. “All genres, including fiction and nonfiction, will be represented,” says May.

The authors will be selling their books, so be sure to bring your checkbook or cash, because not all of them can accommodate credit cards. Enjoy free refreshments and win door prizes donated by local merchants. Winners will be announced every 30 minutes. Authors who’d like a table should sign up at the Friends website.

An Evening of Paris in Noe Valley

Word Week concludes on Sunday, March 23, with a publication party for the prolific **Cara Black**, author of the Aimée Leduc mystery series. *Murder in Pigalle* is the 14th installment, and finds the Parisian detective and expectant mommy hunting down a serial rapist. Folio Books is hosting the party from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Black adds that “my editor **Juliet Grames** [of Soho Press] will be in conversation with me at the event. She’s great!” Black will also sign books and do a short reading. All are welcome to enjoy French food, wine, and music.

Giving Back to Children

Throughout the entirety of Word Week, folks can donate new or gently used books to the Children’s Book Project Book Drive. These books will go to kids all over the Bay Area who are in need of reading materials, an award-winning organization that serves women’s shelters, low-income schools, day cares, and community centers

You can drop off your donations at Cliché Noe, DavidsTea, Folio Books, Small Frys, and Umpqua Bank, all on 24th Street. Folio Books is currently offering a 10 percent discount on new books, so there’s another incentive to donate. Kindergarten through 12th grade textbooks, fiction, and nonfiction are all encouraged.

Have you got all that? If you forget anything, check out the Noe Valley Authors Festival page on Facebook or the Friends of Noe Valley site (friendsofnoevalley.com). You can also email questions to wordweeknoevalley@gmail.com. Be sure to spread the word. ■

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Accident Takes Life of Drewes Owner Josh Epple

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and social media—friends and customers began leaving bouquets of flowers and notes of condolence at the store, 1706 Church St. near 29th Street.

“I’ve lived in the neighborhood for 35 years, and he has been my butcher since he was a little guy,” said Marianne Hampton. “I’m so sorry that he’s gone.”

Joshua Nathan Epple was a powerhouse of a guy. He could be a curmudgeon, for sure. But mostly he was known as an ardent 49ers and Giants fan, an organizer of pickup basketball games at nearby courts, a metalhead whose tastes veered toward Megadeth and Nine Inch Nails, a motorcycle enthusiast, and a dog lover who could often be seen walking his three pets, Mazey, Bebe, and Doop, from the store to Day Street Park.

More importantly, he was a loving father, “a great father,” said Gerry Branch, a close friend and Drewes employee for 10 years. Sadly, Epple leaves behind a 6-year-old son, Justice.

Epple’s memorial service on Feb. 21 at St. Paul’s Catholic Church attracted 500 family members, customers, neighbors, and friends. Some 50 motorcycles sat at the curb outside St. Paul’s at Church and Valley streets during the event.

It was a true sendoff—which local real estate agent Tom Norwick described as an “only in San Francisco unfolding of reflections that both warmed and wrecked your heart.”

Judith Davis agreed. “It was indescribable,” said the 25th Street resident who has shopped at Drewes for years and

whose son and daughter-in-law were close friends with Epple. “St. Paul’s was filled with grown men crying. One man got up to speak and he couldn’t stop crying. Then he started singing and it was so beautiful.”

Jack Felton told an anecdote about his own wayward teen years, hanging out at Drewes and filching bags of potato chips. Epple had the perfect solution—he simply hired the local lad, who has now worked at the store off and on for the past 10 years.

There were many more stories the following day, Feb. 22, as family and friends showed up at McClaren Park for a celebration of the man with a personality as colorful as the tattoos that covered both his arms.

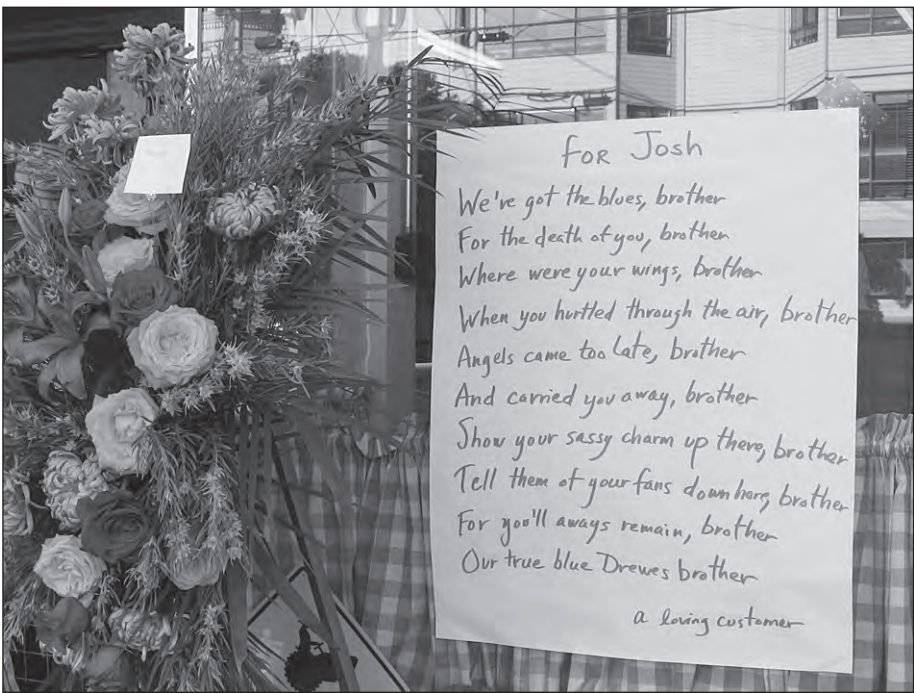
They talked about the times Epple would hop on his bike—a Buell—and join his motorcycle buddies for long rides, about how “he made them laugh or made them angry,” how he’d have sudden bursts of generosity, and how he could “get under your skin,” especially if anyone had the nerve to criticize his favorite sports teams.

The San Francisco native grew up on Valley Street and attended James Lick Middle School and McAteer High School. He also lived in Bernal Heights, the Outer Mission, and was last residing in the Portola District.

Epple began working at Drewes when he was 15 years old. He and brother Isaac took over the old-fashioned butcher shop—and renamed it Drewes Bros. Meats—in 1998, a month after 12-year owner Dave McCarroll closed its doors.

The brothers revitalized the market, offering top-quality, free-range meats, poultry, and fish, as well as deli items on the side.

The store has struggled in recent years, however. The recession hit hard, as did



Flowers, condolence cards, and poetic tributes collected on the sidewalk and in the windows of Drewes meat market in the days following the shocking death of Josh Epple, a man whom many saw as an unstoppable “life force” in the neighborhood.

Photos by Sally Smith

the arrival of Whole Foods Market in 2009.

Isaac Epple moved on eight years ago, and Napier has been an investor for the past five years. Two years ago, the shop returned to its Drewes Meats moniker.

Napier says there are no plans to close the store, despite the loss of its charismatic owner.

“We will carry on,” he said. “We will dedicate it to him. He wanted to keep it going.”

In addition to his wife and son, Josh Epple is survived by his mother Anna, stepfather Karl, brother Isaac, and sister Lilah.

A scholarship fund has been set up for 6-year-old Justice Epple. Contributions may be made at www.justiceepple.com.



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Steve Fox Tees Up For April Opening Of Urban Putt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

miniature three-story Victorians to sway and almost topple a church near a replica of Lotta’s Fountain. The action is replete with subwoofer-amplified rumblings and wailing emergency sirens.

During a single round of golf, you can master 14 holes of kinetic and high-tech wizardry, including the undersea world of Jules Verne, with its coral reef, octopus, and an explorable submarine; an arcade-style duck shoot; and a Day of the Dead concession that pays homage to the city’s Latino heritage.

“This is crazy stuff,” says Fox, a former tech journalist who now wears the title Head Greenskeeper. “This is going to be a really fun place for people.”

The fairway is indoors, within a century-old building at the corner of 22nd Street and South Van Ness Avenue that once was a funeral home. In addition to the mini-golf, the totally renovated building will host a 72-seat restaurant and two bar areas.

If all goes as planned, Urban Putt will open on April 18, the anniversary of the Great Quake. Just a few blocks from Noe Valley, the playland will be the only miniature golf course in the city.

Puttering Around

You might expect the Moorish-style Driscoll’s Mortuary, which had been dormant since 1999, to be a creepy venue for a funhouse. But the former resting place for the dead is the perfect place to make dreams become reality.

“We are breathing new life into this building,” laughs Fox, who turns 58 on March 30.

A resident of Noe Valley for nearly two decades, Fox is the chief mastermind behind Urban Putt. Wife Leslie Crawford, a journalist and neighborhood activist, and the couple’s two children, Gideon, 16, and Molly, 8, are proud and eager participants, too.

The project had a “humble” genesis that Fox, who rarely played traditional

golf, little suspected would grow into a \$1.8 million venture. It started in the late 1990s when Fox, then engaged in a career at CNET and PC World, invited a few colleagues and Noe Valley neighbors to play mini-golf inside his home on 24th Street.

Family and friends used cardboard boxes and other common everyday objects to build golf holes in every room of the house, each with its own funny or political theme. (One especially elaborate hole was a scale model of Iraq, with sand, tanks, toy soldiers, and Saddam Hussein hiding in a bunker.)

The increasingly complex course became a popular annual attraction—with crowds of people playing putt-putt and voting for trophy winners.

“We discovered some new things about what miniature golf could be, elevating it up above a kitschy pastime...that was more artistic and creative and still huge amounts of fun,” says Fox.

“In many ways,” he says, “it started to feel Burning Man-like, but without the dust and the nudity.”

It also got to be too much. With “as many as 200 people trashing our house for one day in May,” Fox and Crawford called a halt in 2009.

After a year or so, though, Fox says the couple realized they “missed the whole wonderful circus aspect and the community feeling” of the event, and began looking for a venue to replicate the mini-golf experiment in prime time.

Graduates of Burning Man

For the last nine months, a crew of about a dozen craftsmen and designers has been designing, milling, fabricating, and painting the sculptures and mechanical props that will populate the new public course. Noe Valley neighbors Chris Myers and Anne Mayoral are directing the team, whose members have experience at Burning Man, the Exploratorium, *MythBusters*, the Maker culture, and Academy of Art University.

“I have very talented people who are working on this,” Fox says. Some have even contributed their own gizmos, such as the giant farm auger conveyor for the Archimedes’ screw. Once open, the arcade will employ more than 50 people, he says.



Steve Fox pauses to inspect an ornament that will likely find a place in the duck shoot arcade at Urban Putt, his soon-to-be-unveiled 14-hole mini-golf course. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Urban Putt will have staggered hours for children and adults. Kids can enjoy their \$8 rounds until 8 p.m. After that, the course will become the purview of adults 21 years and older. Their golf fee will be \$12. The place will be open until midnight Sunday through Thursday, and to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Alcohol will be served in a downstairs bar and in a restaurant on the second floor, to be called UP. There, Chef Dane Boryta will offer a menu of \$13 to \$18 entrees, including burgers, pizzas, and salads.

The project has had its share of “shanks,” golf-speak for errant shots that

don’t go as planned. The most serious challenge Fox faced, however, was raising the \$1.8 million.

“It is tremendously expensive to open a small business,” says Fox, who turned to his own nest egg, an online crowd-sourcing effort that garnered \$50,000, and private investors.

The latter included numerous Noe Valley residents, who contributed equity of between \$25,000 and \$75,000. Still, with a few weeks left until the opening, Fox says he is trying to raise the last \$200,000. For more investor information, email Fox at Steve@urbanputt.com. ■



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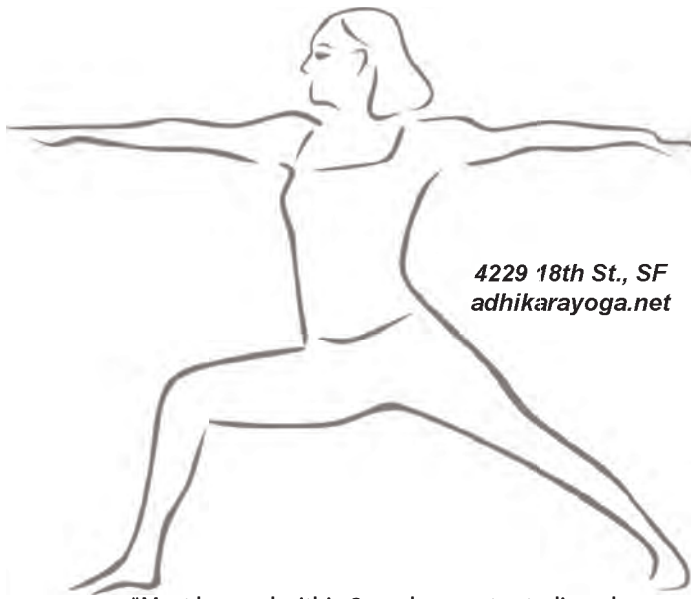
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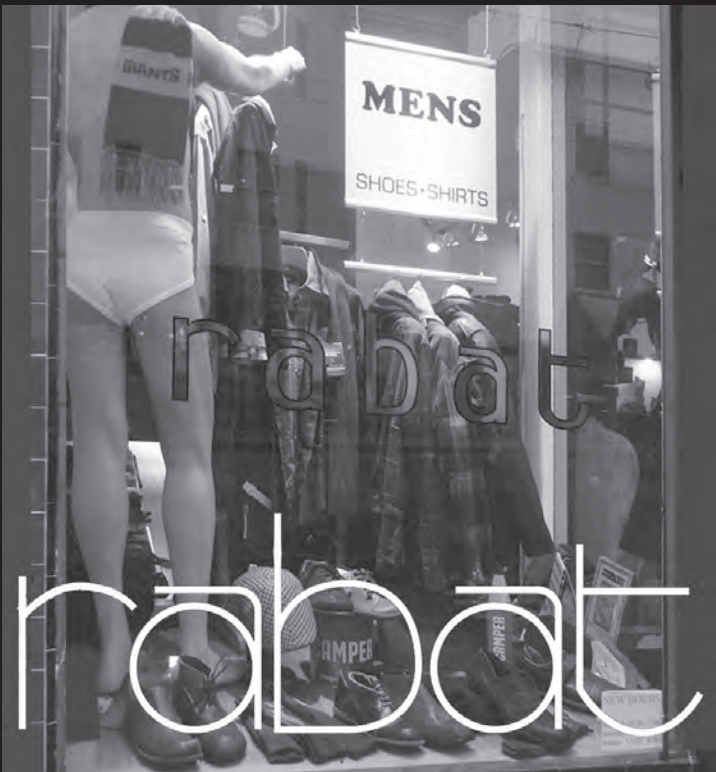
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SHORT TAKES

(Un) Gated Community for Dogs

Upper Douglass Dog Park isn't scheduled to reopen until April, but plans are already afoot that will affect use of the gated three-acre park.

At a community meeting held Jan. 30, Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park proposed three measures: keeping the gates open during daytime hours, locking gates closed for routine and intensive maintenance, and better enforcement of dog-walking laws.

"We're trying to distribute the pain as evenly as possible," said Jim Collins, president of FUDDP. Some dog walkers at the meeting protested the open gates, he said. On the other side, some neighbors will still be disgruntled by the noise and parking issues surrounding the busy park.

FUDDP itself raised the money to buy and install the gates in 2010.

"It was a mistake," said Collins. The park has always drained poorly, and the increased use that followed the installation of the gates exacerbated the problem, he said. Gated dog parks are popular with dog walkers who must look after several animals at once.

Under the new proposal, staff from the park department would lock the gate open around 8 a.m. and unlock it around 5:30 p.m., when they pass through Noe Valley parks opening and closing the bathrooms, Collins said.

"The park will go back to being what it was before the gates but with better drainage, new grass, and a new sprinkler," he said. "The advantage [of the

gate] is that we can close the whole thing off for a few days for maintenance."

FUDDP was scheduled to meet Feb. 28 with District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener and Recreation and Park Department officials about moving forward with the changes, he said.

Affordable Housing in the Bay Area

A panel of experts will weigh in on affordable housing in the Bay Area at the March 19 meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club at St. Philip's Church.

The panelists will include Sarah Karlinsky, deputy director of local think tank San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Research Association (SPUR); Douglas Shoemaker, president of Mercy Housing California, a nonprofit dedicated to affordable housing development; Teresa Yanga, deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Housing; and Tim Colen, executive director of the San Francisco Housing Action Coalition, a group that monitors housing growth.

"Diversity of incomes, races, job opportunities, and housing affordability is

key to the Bay Area's continued prosperity," said Molly Fleischman, the vice president of the club and its chairwoman of programming.

The panelists' presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The meeting starts at 7 p.m., earlier than usual. St. Philip's Church is located at 725 Diamond St. There is parking behind the church. For information, email Fleischman at molly@ffrsf.com.

Green Thumbs Up

Got a garden you want to show off? Friends of Noe Valley is viewing potential sites for this year's neighborhood garden tour, which will happen Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gardens can be of any size, including sidewalk gardens; any variety; and can be either owner- or professionally designed and maintained. Gardens showcased on any previous tour other than last year's can be submitted.

They must be accessible without going through a home and they must be within the boundaries of the neighborhood: 30th, 21st, and Guerrero streets, and Grand

View/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The Friends are also looking for a project to fund with the tour's proceeds, specifically a community garden that is in a visible area in the neighborhood. Last year's proceeds went to plantings for the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library.

For more information, contact board member and events chairwoman Linda Lockyer at Lindalockyer3@gmail.com or 415-519-1654.

Street Landscaping Grants

Supervisor Scott Wiener has set aside \$25,000 to fund sidewalk greening projects in his district, and interested neighbors and schools have until March 21 to submit an application for a grant.

There is no cap on the amount that can be requested, but neighbors are encouraged to apply in groups of at least six.

"There are costs involved getting a project put together that are the same if it's one or five neighbors," said aide Andres Power. "Monies can be stretched much further if we have groups of people applying together."

Winners will be chosen by a panel that does not include Wiener's office, Power said.

Once projects have been chosen, Friends of the Urban Forest will do the work, Power said. The group, known for organizing community tree plantings around San Francisco, has expanded its scope to include sidewalk landscaping and median work, he said.

In addition, Power will help applicants identify other possible sources of funding for their projects.

For a packet and more information, email Power at andres.power@sfgov.org or call Wiener's office at 415-554-6968.

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



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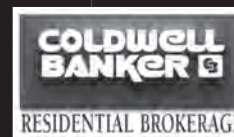
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456 Collingwood

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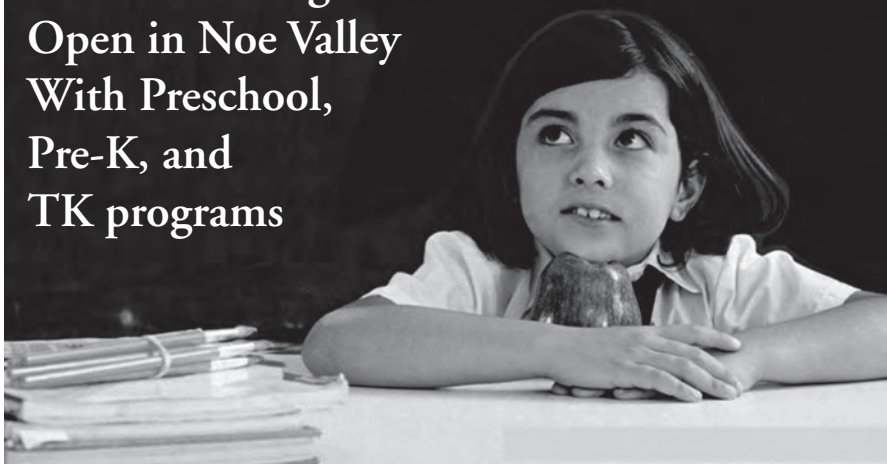
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SCHOOL BEAT

Assignments Mailed in March

By Heather World

Assignment letters will go out this month, and many schools are opening their doors to prospective parents. **Glen Park Elementary**, the neighborhood school for the southernmost Noe Valleyans, will host Monday tours on March 18, 25, and April 8, starting at 9 a.m. outside the school office, 151 Lip-pard St.

Parents are invited to come at 8:40 a.m. for a “morning clap-in.”

“It’s a great way to get a feel for what Glen Park is all about,” said parent Amy St. Claire. The school has much to applaud: more than 50 people—students, teachers, family members, friends, neighbors, and Friends of the Urban Forest volunteers—planted 18 trees at the school during a general garden cleanup in February.

You can meet the parents, staff, and teachers at **Alvarado Elementary** by attending the school’s auction Saturday, March 15, 6 to 10:30 p.m., at the Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline Blvd.

This year’s theme is “The Fountain of Art—Where We Share and Celebrate Our Passions.” Tickets cost \$40 per person (\$45 at the door) in return for a night of free food and drinks. The highlight of the evening begins at 6:30 p.m., when artwork produced by students, parent volunteers, and teachers in each classroom goes up for bidding. For tickets, visit www.alvaradoschool.net/auction2014.

Tutors Needed

The school is also looking for volunteers to tutor students in the Reading Partners program, now in its fourth year at Alvarado.

Students receive 45 minutes of tutoring twice a week, ideally with the same tutor both days. The nonprofit’s data has shown that 88 percent of students advance an entire grade level after 25 hours of tutoring.

Right now, 42 students receive the one-on-one reading support twice a week, but site manager Abby Traub would like to add another 13 students to the roster. Volunteers ages 14 and older with basic English fluency are needed for at least one hour a week, hopefully for the remainder of the school year. No experience is required. Instead, Reading Partners provides a full curriculum, training, and staff support.

Noe Valley resident Michelle Echenique heeded an earlier call for tutors and said she was glad she did.

“Working one-on-one with a student is gratifying, providing a perfect way to connect and track progress in this essential and pleasurable skill: reading,” she said. Contact Abby Traub to sign up at abigail.traub@readingpartners.org or 415-802-9918.

Seventh-Grade Champions

St. Paul’s School, 1690 Church St., has scheduled an open house for Tuesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. Call the school at 415-648-2055 to reserve a space. Better yet, join parents and parishioners for the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance Saturday, March 15, from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The evening features live traditional Irish music, a full bar, and a classic Irish corned-beef-and-cabbage dinner. A special kids’ menu will also be available. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children and can be bought in advance by calling the St. Paul’s Rectory at 415-648-7538. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door on a first-come basis.

The school’s seventh-grade basketball team won the Catholic Youth Organization Division 2 Championship in February, coming from behind in the last 18 seconds to win 53 to 50.

Unload Your Old Computer

Meet parents and teachers from **James Lick Middle School** March 22 at the school’s “Check It Out” party, an adults-only evening of cocktail, food, conversation—and checks, said Liz Torres, the PTSA president.

“We invite friends, extended family, and community leaders,” she said. Attendees start the evening by writing a check to the school, then head for the bar. Food and alcohol donations are needed. Contact Torres for more information at lizzard701@gmail.com or 415-695-5669.

Earlier that day, the school will host an e-waste benefit. Bring old computers and appliances to the campus, 1220 Noe St., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will pay for eighth-grade class promotion and resources for students in need. ■

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Busy Holiday for Home Buyers

By Corrie M. Anders

Two homes at the southern end of Noe Valley each sold for \$3 million-plus, as winter foragers picked up nine single-family dwellings in January.

The houses, both sporting a sleek contemporary design, were the most expensive detached homes sold during the first month of 2014, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

The sales total matched the nine homes sold in December, and was five more than the number sold in January a year ago.

Condominium sales rose, too. Buyers

purchased six in January, two more than recorded in December. Last year, there were no condo sales in January.

“These are pretty good numbers,” said Zephyr manager Randall Kostick, noting that January sales reflected purchases initiated during the generally slow holiday months of November and December.

In a bit of good news for potential buyers, the skyrocketing appreciation over the last two years appeared to moderate in January. The average price of a single-family home rose a modest 4.3 percent—to \$2,011,667 from \$1,929,300 the same month a year earlier.

Still, Kostick noted that many buyers paid more than the asking price in January—and they may have been people who had previously been outbid numerous times and decided “I’m going to give it everything.”

Shoppers certainly “pushed the envelope” for a pair of lavishly renovated houses in Upper Noe Valley.

One was a craftsman-style home in the quiet 2200 block of Castro Street between



The priciest home purchased in Noe Valley in January was a craftsman-style house on Castro Street with commanding views of downtown.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

29th and Valley streets. Buyers paid \$3,550,000, 7.7 percent more than the \$3,295,000 asking price, for the ebony-shingled home, which featured four bedrooms, 4.5 baths, a media room, two-car parking, scenic vistas, and four outdoor decks or garden spaces. The deal was made in 27 days.

The other home was located a few blocks down the hill in the 1600 block of Church Street, between Valley and 28th streets. It went for \$3,225,000—5.1 percent below the \$3.4 million the sellers had originally sought. The three-bedroom, 3.5-bath house showed off a façade with floor-to-ceiling glass walls, a terrace, media room, and two-car garage. Buyers

closed escrow on the three-story house in 35 days.

Over in condominium world, the deal-making was just as snappy (an average of 34 days). January buyers paid an average \$1 million—12 percent more than the asking price—to snag a condo in our popular enclave.

The most expensive unit carried a price tag of just under \$1.1 million—16 percent more than the seller’s asking price. The two-bedroom, 1.5-bath home, with 1,200 square feet of space, is located in the 1100 block of Dolores Street at 24th Street. ■



An ultramodern home on Church Street with a nearly transparent façade fetched \$3,225,000 in January.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
January 2014	9	\$675,000	\$3,550,000	\$2,011,667	43	105%
December 2013	9	\$869,000	\$2,950,000	\$1,892,667	22	107%
January 2013	5	\$875,000	\$2,890,000	\$1,929,300	80	95%
Condominiums						
January 2014	6	\$750,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,050,160	34	112%
December 2013	4	\$750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,277,500	70	105%
January 20-13	0	0	—	—	—	—
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2014	3	\$900,000	\$3,499,000	\$2,136,667	107	105%
December 2013	2	\$1,325,000	\$1,752,000	\$1,538,500	34	107%
January 2013	0	0	—	—	—	—
5+-unit buildings						
January 2014	0	0	—	—	—	—
December 2013	1	\$2,240,000	\$2,240,000	\$2,240,000	12	112%
January 2013	1	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	61	105%

* 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 3/2014

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2014	Average February 2014	Average January 2014	Average February 2013
Studio	4	\$1,800 – \$2,600	\$2,087 / mo.	\$1,955 / mo.	\$1,666 / mo.
1-bdrm	31	\$1,995 – \$3,795	\$2,894 / mo.	\$2,945 / mo.	\$2,533 / mo.
2-bdrm	36	\$2,895 – \$7,395	\$3,961 / mo.	\$4,253 / mo.	\$3,841 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$3,850 – \$13,000	\$5,968 / mo.	\$5,483 / mo.	\$5,227 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$4,600 – \$12,500	\$6,917 / mo.	\$7,661 / mo.	\$7,063 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 92 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from Feb. 7 to 17, 2014. NVV 3/2014

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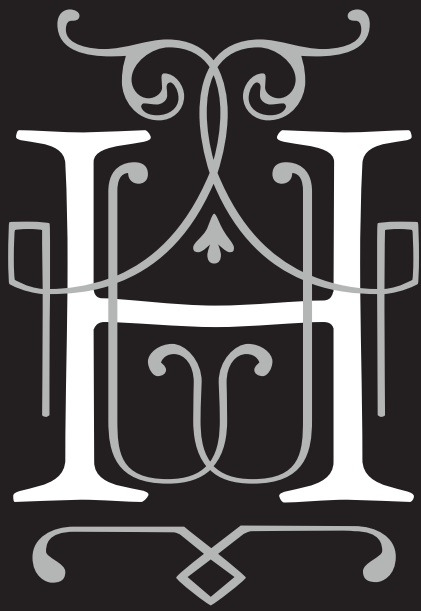
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\$1,150,000 **SOLD**



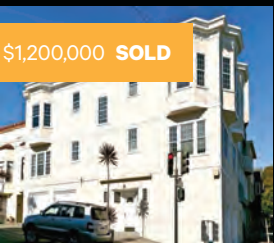
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SUNDAY, MARCH 16

A Day of Noe Valley Children's Book Authors

Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

1:30pm: Storytime with Maria van Lieshout

2:30pm: Noe Valley children's book authors & readers mixer

4:30pm: Crafty Show-and-Tell with Mike Adamick

Books available for sale and signing.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Irish Literature at Odd Mondays

7-9pm: Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

Local authors read from Irish literature:

Novels: Scott Hutchins
Nonfiction: Mary Jo McConahay
Short Stories: Richard May
Poetry: Dan Richman
Folktales: Michelle Cannon Diaz

Irish refreshments, including Jamesons, Baileys & homemade Irish soda bread.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Author Visit, Prudence Breitrose

8:30-9:30am: Alvarado School, 625 Douglass St.

Children's Storytelling & Olive Oil Tasting

3-5pm: Olive This Olive That, 304 Vicksburg St.

Orietta Gianjorio and Nathalie Fabri

Book Swap

7-9pm: at Olive This Olive That. Bring a book, take a book!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

LGBT Books Panel

7:30-9pm: Cliche Noe Gifts, 4178 24th St.

Four LGBT authors read from their books and discuss the queer creative process.

Mark Abramson, *For My Brothers* memoir

Tyler Cohen, *Primahood* comics on raising children

Bud Gundy, *The Averstons Salt* historical novel

Dorian Katz, *Safe Sex Bang: Buzz Bense Collection of Safer Sex posters*

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Toddler Tales

10:15-10:45am & 11-11:30am: Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey.

Catherine Starr reads for kids 16-36 months.

MFK Fisher: Musings on Wine & Other Libations

6:30-7:30pm: Omnivore Books on Food, 3885A Cesar Chavez near Church St.

New Noe Novels

7:30-9pm: Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

Four Noe Valley authors read from novels just out! Authors and readers mixer.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Akeelah & the (Spelling) Bee movie

3:30-5:30pm: Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

Can 11 year old Akeelah Anderson make it to the National Spelling Bee?

Noe Valley Open Mic

7-9:30pm: Cliche Noe Gifts, 4178 24th St.

Spoken word, your own songs. Sign up online now and at the party.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Noe Valley Authors Festival

2-5pm: Alvarado School, 625 Douglass St.

Browse books by 30 authors and illustrators

All genres, fiction and nonfiction represented.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Paris in Noe, a publication party

7:30-9pm: Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

Celebrate publication of *Murder in Pigalle*, the latest Aimee Leduc mystery by Noe Valley's own New York Times best selling author Cara Black.

Juliet Grames will interview Cara.

Book sales and signing.

French food, drink & music.

March 16 - March 23: Children's Book Project Book Drive. Drop off new or gently used books for needy Bay Area children at Cliche Noe, DAVIDs Teas, Folio Books, Small Frys & Umpqua Bank on 24th St.

For more information about Word Week, visit www.friendsofnoevalley.com



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Wheels Are Turning at Upper Noe Rec Center

Spring into action and register for classes at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. near Sanchez Street. New offerings include strollercize and girls basketball on Wednesdays, teen tennis on Sundays, and bread-baking on Saturdays. Registration for the spring session starts Saturday, March 1. Signups for summer camp start March 15, 10 a.m. Classes begin the week of March 18.

To view course offerings at all the city parks, go to www.sfreconline.org. (Note that classes are subject to change.) For the most up-to-date schedule at Upper Noe, including open gym hours and special performances and events, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com, call 415-970-8061, or stop by the center. Recreation 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 daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING CLASSES

MONDAY	
Tennis (7-12 yrs old)	Mon., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	
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., 4-5:30 p.m.
Indoor Soccer (9-12 yrs old)	Tues., 4:30-5:30 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.
Strollercize (adult)	Wed., 10-11 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.
Girls Basketball (5-9 yrs old)	Wed., 3-4:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball (10-14 yrs old)	Wed., 4:30-6 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.
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	
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 (1-3 yrs old)	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 (8-16 yrs old)	Fri., 4:30-6 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)
The Art of Baking Bread (adult)	Sat., 10:30 a.m.-1p.m.
Tennis (5-8 yrs old)	Sat., 1-2 p.m.
SUNDAY	
Tennis (8-11 yrs old)	Sun., 12-1:30 p.m.



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SixDoors: Online Shopping at Noe Valley Stores

App/Website Designed to Boost Mom and Pop

By Heather World

Olive This Olive That on Vicksburg Street is one of those Noe Valley boutiques you love to have in the neighborhood but worry might not succeed, so local and unique is its character.

But now the store and a handful of other 24th Street shops can compete with the likes of Amazon, thanks to SixDoors, a website and free application for the iPhone launched last August.

Partnering with 70 San Francisco boutique stores, SixDoors is an online neighborhood for local shopping, which also offers same-day delivery service. Noe businesses include the Ark, Cliché Noe, Curator, Les Voleurs Wine, Mabuhay Kids, Peekabootique, and Small Frys.

Already the site has attracted customers with deep pockets, like local companies rewarding employees and real estate agents buying gifts for homebuyers, in addition to individual shoppers.

Locally Sourced Idea

The app is the brainchild of Noe Valley entrepreneur Pascal Levy-Garboua, who moved to the neighborhood five years ago. Part of what the Parisian transplant loved about San Francisco was the colorful variety of independently owned businesses.

“What is striking about these stores is that they are part of our community,” said Levy-Garboua. Local shop owners and artists live, work, and send their kids to school locally, he said.

“We all have a connection to each other,” he said. “We want to open new doors within the same community.”

Levy-Garboua turned his attention to finding ways to support local business after he sold his first company, an automated customer support service called VirtuOz, to the company that makes the voice of Siri.

To find out what they would need, he went under cover, working the counter at Mabuhay children’s clothing store on Church Street during the 2012 holiday shopping season. He noticed that managing the shop’s website, handling its orders, and ringing up brick-and-mortar sales was more than a full-time job for owner Camille Seiberling. That got him thinking.

“What can we do to have her do what she does best—find these amazing products and manage her existing customers—but also sell online?” he said.

The “Anti-Amazon”

His answer was SixDoors, a startup created with co-founder Thorsten Lubinski. The name “Doors” alludes to the door-to-door service, and “Six” refers to the famous degrees of separation that in theory link everyone in the world to one another.

“We want to support local independent businesses and show what they have, which is typically more unique and interesting than what you can find at big box stores,” Levy-Garboua said. “We’re the anti-Amazon.”

Participating businesses create a photographed inventory of items for sale, and shoppers can browse by category (including collections curated by SixDoors itself) or by store.

The site isn’t limited to material goods—Valentine’s Day pickings included personalized poems on demand and a love song sung by a duet from the Academy of Art. SixDoors makes money by taking a cut of each transaction.

Customer service and delivery logistics are then handled by the application. To deliver the goods, the company uses



While testing his local-shopping app SixDoors, Pascal Levy-Garboua (right) went under cover as a worker in Camille Seiberling’s kids’ store Mabuhay. He says he got a full dose of the kind of pressures Seiberling and other boutique owners face these days. Photo by Pamela Gerard

contractors and then some.

“For the holidays, we all wore our delivery-men hat and delivered what people bought,” Levy-Garboua said.

A Welcome Knock

Lucy Counter found the app to be a lifesaver the night before she was scheduled to fly to England for the holidays. She’d done no Christmas shopping for family and friends back there.

“I sort of left it a little late,” she said. So she tapped on SixDoors on her phone.

“It’s very easy to find the things that you want, but what’s nice is that they’re all different local businesses,” she said. “I can find good-quality local interesting things that it would take me hours and hours to go around town buying.”

She bought sunglasses, tea towels, San Francisco coasters, and more at 10 p.m., and had the packages in her suitcase by

noon the next day.

Local businesses say they’ve found SixDoors easy to use, too. Matthew Purdon, co-owner of Les Voleurs Wines, said he gets an email or phone call when wine is bought. He pulls the wine, wraps it, and sits back.

“They send a delivery person and—boom—they pick it up,” he said.

Though she didn’t have specific numbers, owner Janell Pekkain said Olive This Olive That sold quite a bit of olive oil through SixDoors (www.sixdoors.com).

“The more exposure we can get, the better for us,” she said. “I think it’s a wonderful service and a great idea for San Francisco.”

“By next Christmas season,” said Levy-Garboua, “I think we’ll have doubled in size in terms of number of stores. We’ll have a lot more drivers, and we might be in a few other cities.” ■

TownSquared Ties Merchants Together

Noe Valley businesses have embraced a Web-based technology called TownSquared, which allows them to share information more privately and securely.

From developing emergency-preparedness plans to coordinating store specials to getting recommendations for accountants, the free tool is useful, said Gwen Sanderson, owner of Video Wave on Castro Street.

“This is the stuff I used to have to walk door to door to talk to people about,” said Sanderson, a former president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

When she joined in late 2013, she noticed there were a number of Noe merchants on TownSquared who’d never come to any of the meetings of the NVMPA.

“It’s something that’s so manageable that people who don’t like talking to people signed up on it,” she said.

There are about 160 members of the Noe Valley TownSquared, and the strength in numbers has already proven itself, Sanderson said.

One business owner reached out to find shared space after losing a long-term lease. Another shared a picture of a shoplifter. Another merchant recognized the face and realized she had the woman’s information on file because she’d just sold something to her.

Merchants concerned about a neighborhood homeless man coordinated efforts to find him help, said Bob Roddick, the current president of the merchants association.

“It was perfect,” he said. They could announce meetings, ask for opinions, and

more easily document incidents, he said.

Unlike a Yahoo or Google listserv, a TownSquared community requires no manager, and the company itself verifies that applicants own actual businesses and are who they say they are.

The company was launched in August 2013, by Noe Valley residents Rohit Prakash and Nipul Patel, and designed by Miwa Ikemiya, who created the interface while working from Noe Valley coffee shops.

“We believe the strength of the American economy is in the local businesses, and we’re trying to build a tool that helps them out,” said Prakash. “It’s about knowledge-sharing.”

Roddick has encouraged the trio to develop surveys and petitions that can be sent through TownSquared. He also wants easier access to city agencies and news about legislation affecting small businesses in San Francisco.

“They can distribute information about laws coming down the pike,” he said.

An active member of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, Roddick has also introduced TownSquared’s founders to many merchants associations throughout the city. Prakash said the company had also partnered with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

“The south part of the city is pretty much TownSquared,” Prakash said.

At present, they make no money on the venture, but they’ve managed to spread it to business communities around San Francisco and as far south as Carmel.

—Heather World

A large graphic featuring the KQED logo. The letter 'Q' is stylized with a circular inset showing a person's face. Below the logo, the text "Because you want more." is written in a large, bold font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, is "CONTEXT. REPORTING. PERSPECTIVES." At the bottom left, the text "KQED 9", "KQED 88.5 FM", and "KQEDnews.org" are listed. At the bottom right, the logos for "npr" and "PBS" are displayed.

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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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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We’re on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

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

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

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. We appreciate your support.

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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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EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Opera for the People: Larry Oppenheim, president of the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, will discuss and show clips from the Mozart opera *Don Giovanni*, based on the legend of Don Juan. Saturday, March 1, 2 to 3 p.m.

eReader Drop-In Class: Bring your Kindle, iPad, Nook, or other mobile device and learn how to access the San Francisco Library’s collection of more than 40,000 ebooks. Tuesday, March 11, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Great Books Discussion Group: “Why Great Revolutions Will Become Rare” by Alexis de Tocqueville is the topic at the March meeting of the Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. Wed., March 12, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Friday Matinee: Each month, the Noe Valley Library screens a feature film based on a book. This month, it presents the romantic comedy *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* (2011), a film based on the novel of the same name by Paul Torday. Ewan McGregor stars as a Scottish fisheries expert who becomes entangled with a Yemeni sheikh and his British accountant. Friday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Newcomers are welcome to join the **Noe Valley Book Discussion Group**, which meets on the third Wednesday of the month. March 19, 7 p.m.

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

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A Stroll in the Valley by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

They Have a Long Shelf Life

A book on how to train a train, a memoir by singer Linda Ronstadt, and a documentary about the “bad boy” of Tibetan Buddhism are standouts on this month’s list of books and DVDs, offered by Noe Valley 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, 451 Jersey St., or search online at www.sfpl.org. For more information, call the local branch at 415-355-5707.

Adult Fiction

- The historical novel *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris is a thriller about the Dreyfus Affair.
- In Katrina Onstad’s *Everybody Has Everything*, a childless couple suddenly becomes guardians of a 2-year-old.
- A middle-aged writer travels to India to write a biography of an elusive activist in *The Truth* by Michael Palin.
- A 13-year-old girl is stuck in purgatory in *Doomed* by Chuck Palahniuk.

Adult Nonfiction

- *Handmade Books for Everyday Adventures: 20 Bookbinding Projects for Explorers, Travelers, and Nature Lovers*, by Erin Zamrzla, includes instructions for projects that use repurposed materials.
- *The Best American Travel Writing 2013*, edited and with an introduction by Elizabeth Gilbert, takes readers to Vietnam, Peru, a theme park in England, and more.
- Linda Ronstadt’s *Simple Dreams: A Musical Memoir* explores the singer’s childhood and career.
- *The New Middle East: The World After the Arab Spring*, by former BBC Middle East Bureau Chief Paul Dana-har, covers current affairs and American foreign policy.

Films on DVD

- Documentary *Battle for Brooklyn*, directed by Michael Galinsky and Suki Hawley, is the story of the struggle to save homes from being demolished when plans are made to build a basketball arena.
- Newly released on DVD, *Badlands*, written, produced, and directed by Terrence Malick and starring Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek, is the 1973 film based on a killing spree in the Dakota Badlands.
- *Crazy Wisdom: The Life and Times of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche*, directed by Johanna Demetrakas, is a documentary about the monk who introduced Tibetan Buddhism to the West.
- *Cloud Atlas*, based on the science fic-

tion novel by David Mitchell, stars Tom Hanks and Halle Berry.

Children’s Fiction

- A crocodile worries what will happen if he swallows a seed in *The Watermelon Seed*, written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli. Ages 3 to 5.
- *How to Train a Train*, written by Jason Carter Eaton and illustrated by John Rocco, gives advice on how to take care of your pet train. Ages 4 to 8.
- Andrew asks his neighbors for help when he discovers only three carrots in his refrigerator in *Empty Fridge*, written and illustrated by Gaetan Doremus. Ages 5 to 7.
- Theodora the duck, who puts her teacup on her head when she swims, thinks her new neighbor, the one with the dyed feathers, is a bit strange in *Odd Duck*, a graphic novel by Cecil Castellucci and Sara Varon. Ages 6 to 11.
- *The Abominables*, a previously unpublished work by Eva Ibbotson, follows a family of yetis forced to trek across Asia in search of a new home. Ages 8 to 12.
- A young girl sifts through the contents of a cardboard box her father left for her, in *Dear Scarlett* by Fleur Hitchcock, with illustrations by Sarah Coleman. Ages 9 and up.
- A Virginia teen growing up in the 1970s struggles as he faces his family’s racist inheritance, in *Seeing Red* by Kathryn Erskine. Ages 10 to 14.

Children’s Nonfiction

- *My First 10 Paintings* by Marie Sellier introduces 10 famous works of art, including the *Mona Lisa*, *Starry Night*, and Rousseau’s *The Snake Charmer* (a painting in the de Young Museum collection). Ages 3-5.
- Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson are paired in *Martin and Mahalia: His Words, Her Song*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Ages 6 and up.
- Readers can “zoom in on the world’s most incredible dinosaurs,” in the fact-filled *Dinosaurs Eye to Eye* by DK Publishing. Ages 8-16.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

Fratello Marionettes Perform The Frog Prince

The Fratello Marionettes present the classic fairy tale *The Frog Prince*. All ages are invited to the half-hour show, which will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Come early to make sure you get a seat. Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m.

Akeelah and the Bee

As part of Noe Valley Word Week, the library will show the film *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006), written and directed by Doug Atchison and starring Keke Palmer as an 11-year-old girl who competes in a national spelling bee. The Noe Valley Bakery will donate cookies for the event, for ages 8 to adult. Friday, March 21, 3:30 p.m.

Toddler Tales Told Twice

Children ages 16 to 36 months and their parents or caregivers are invited to come for Toddler Tales—stories, songs, rhymes, and movement led by children’s librarian Miss Catherine. Thursdays, March 6, 13, and 20, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel Films

An assortment of short films, tailored for children ages 3 to 5 with parent or caregiver, will be shown two times at the library’s Preschool Films. Thursday, March 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. 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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March 1: Registration for SPRING CLASSES at the Upper Noe Rec Center begins at 10 am. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

March 1: Attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dolores Park RENOVATION at 10 am. 19th & Dolores. jacob.gilchrist@sfgov.org; 581-2561.

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 1-8: 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 1-15: MARGA GOMEZ performs her 10th solo show, *Love-birds*. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 8:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 282-3055; themarsh.org.

March 1-29: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live musicians from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 1-30: 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.

March 1-31: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

March 1-31: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon & 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

March 1-April 6: ARTZONE 461 Gallery exhibits art by Art Hazelwood and William Wolff, and "In Search of New Printmaking." Reception March 8, 5-8 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; artzone461.com.

March 1-April 18: The MARSH presents Brian Copeland's *The*

MARCH 2014

Scion. Thurs. & Fri, 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm. 1062 Valencia. 271-3256; themarsh.org.

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

March 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.

March 2-30: 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.

March 3: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts readings by Jane Laura Goldsmith (*Indian Winter*) and Patricia Lee Jackson (*Takes an Uprising*). 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

March 4: Holy Innocents hosts a MARDI GRAS celebration with Cajun food, pancakes, music and dancing. 6 to 8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

March 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.

March 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.

March 4-25: Dogs 6 months and older are invited to the Tuesday PUPPY SOCIAL at K9 Scrub Club. 7-8 pm. 1734 Church. Online registration required: k9scrubclub.com.

March 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.

March 4 & April 1: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

March 5: Celebrate READ ALOUD Day for kids at Folio Books, with local authors and hot chocolate. 6-7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

March 5: Peggy Wolff, Elizabeth Berg, and Phyllis Florin introduce *Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie: Mid-western WRITERS on Food*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 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.

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

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

March 5 & April 2: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 4127 18th. 621-1107. GLBThistory.org.

March 5-26 & April 2: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

March 6, 13 & 20: The Noe Valley Library hosts TODDLER TALES, featuring books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 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.

March 7: Gamelan Sekar Jaya performs at the ROTUNDA DANCE series at SF City Hall. Noon. dancersgroup.org.



Dancers from the Bay Area and around the world will Dance Anywhere at noon on March 28.

March 7: The Glen Park Library screens the Disney ANIMATION film *Tangled*, for ages 6 and up. 4-6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

March 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.

March 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.

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

March 8: LADYBUG GARDENERS meet quarterly at Upper Noe Rec Center from 9 am to noon; volunteers of all ages welcome. 295 Day. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

March 8: The SF SUMMER RESOURCE FAIR showcases sum-

mer camps and classes for children, teens, and families. 10 am-2 pm. Balboa High School, 1000 Cayuga. 554-8990; dcyf.org.

March 8: The Fratello MARI-ONETTES perform *The Frog Prince* at the Noe Valley Library. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 8: John McReynolds introduces his *Stone Edge Farm COOK-BOOK*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 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.

March 8: Misner & Smith, Maurice Tain & 77 El Deora, and Sounds of Sirens perform a 7:30 pm concert for SF LIVE ARTS (Noe Valley Music Series). St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.


March 9: Erik Martinez, LGBTQ coordinator for SFUSD Health Programs, speaks at the monthly PFLAG support group. 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflagsf@aol.com.

March 9: Noe Valley Chamber Music presents a concert by Eastern European women's ensemble KITKA. 4-6 pm. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell. 928-7770; nvcm.org.

March 11: The Eureka Valley Library hosts an evening of POETRY with Daphne Gottlieb. 7-8 pm. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 11: LITQUAKE Epicenter features Eddie Muller in conversation with Scott O'Connor. 7 pm. Glass Door Gallery, 245 Columbus #8. litquake.org.

March 11: Christopher Pollock discusses "Remnants of San Francisco: Pieces of the BYGONE CITY" at the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7:30 pm. 88 Fifth. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

WED MAR 5	PEGGY WOLFF, ELIZABETH BERG, PHYLLIS FLORIN • FRIED WALLEYE AND CHERRY PIE: MIDWESTERN WRITERS ON FOOD 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE, WITH SNACKS FROM THE GREAT MIDWEST • The volume brings to the table an illustrious gathering of thirty Midwestern writers with something to say about the gustatory pleasures and peculiarities of the region.
SAT MAR 8	JOHN McREYNOLDS • STONE EDGE FARM • 3-4 P.M. FREE, WITH WINE AND SMALL PLATES FROM THE FARM AND VINEYARD Stone Edge Farm is a wondrously diverse and productive organic garden on a large scale; chef McReynolds will share his knowledge and his food!
WED MAR 12	JOHN ASH • CULINARY BIRDS: THE ULTIMATE POULTRY COOKBOOK • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Chef John Ash is a James Beard award-winning author, teacher, and restaurateur. He co-hosts a weekly food and wine radio talk show, <i>The Good Food Hour</i> , broadcast in Sonoma County.
SAT MAR 15	MAC & CHEESE CONTEST • 3-4 P.M. FREE TO ENTRANTS; \$5 FOR TASTERS-ONLY • Come show off your savory skills this time by making the chewiest, gooiest, most addictive mac & cheese you can. Bring a serving spoon and an apron, and come a little early.
THR MAR 20	ANNE ZIMMERMAN • MFK FISHER: MUSINGS ON WINE AND OTHER LIBATIONS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE, WITH WINE, OF COURSE • This anthology, edited by acclaimed biographer Anne Zimmerman (<i>An Extravagant Hunger: The Passionate Years of M.F.K. Fisher</i>), is the first ever to gather Fisher's finest writings on wine
SAT MAR 29	GREG PATENT • THE FRENCH COOK: SOUFFLES • 3-4 P.M. FREE • Through soufflé basics, a lesson on beating egg whites, and a review of sauce bases, Patent develops the home cook's skills and confidence in creating a wide array show-off dishes following basic French culinary techniques.
SAT APR 5	JACK BISHOP • HOW CAN IT BE GLUTEN-FREE COOKBOOK 3-4 P.M. FREE • Successful gluten free recipes require more than just new ingredients. You need new techniques and that's where Jack Bishop can help. He established the tasting protocols used in America's Test Kitchen and has authored dozens of articles for the magazine.

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THE MARIN PREP ANNUAL AUCTION & CASINO NIGHT

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Nights

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CALENDAR

March 12: The CANADIAN Women's Club lunch meeting features a talk by Joanne Hayes White, chief of the SF Fire Department. 11 am. Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad, South SF. Reservations: canadianwomensclub.org.

March 12: Shaping San Francisco presents the free "Saltworks and SHORELINES: A Visual and Social History of the Bay," a TALK featuring Chris Benton's kite photography and Matthew Booker's *Down by the Bay*. 7:30-9:30 pm. 518 Valencia. 881-7579; foundsf.org.

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

March 12: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group discusses Alexis de Tocqueville's *Why Great Revolutions Will Become Rare*. 6:15-8:15 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 12: Chef John Ash describes his *Culinary Birds: The Ultimate POULTRY Cookbook*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 12-Dec. 17: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

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

March 13: Supervisor Scott Wiener and District 8 Youth Commissioner Angela Van Stark host a TOWN MEETING on District 8 youth issues. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market. adamtaylor@sfgov.org.

March 15 & 19: The Center for Asian American Media sponsors CAAMFest 2014 (March 13-23), which includes the Hashtag Short Set, featuring *Choose Wisely*, shot in Noe Valley. Sat., 9:20 pm; Wed., 9:10 pm. New People Cinema, 1746 Post. 525-8630.

March 14: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 2011 FILM *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, star-

ring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 14 & 15, 21 & 22: Sculptural costume artist SHA SHA HIGBY performs "Paper Wing." 8 pm. Nohspace Theater, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978; theatreofyugen.org.

March 15: Celebrate the renovation of the GLEN CANYON playgrounds and tennis courts. 9:30 am. Glen Canyon Park Rec Center, 70 Elk. 337-4705.

March 15: Omnivore Books hosts a MAC & CHEESE contest, free to entrants (come early and bring a serving spoon), \$5 for tasters. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 15: Nell Robinson and Wendy Burch Steel perform an 8 pm concert for SF LIVE ARTS (Noe Valley Music Series). St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 16: WORD WEEK kicks off at Folio Books with Noe children's book authors; 1:30 story time with Maria van Lieshout, 2:30 readers and authors mixer, 4:30 crafts with Mike Adamick (*Dad's Book of Awesome Projects*). 3957 24th. 821-3477. Friendsfnoevalley.com.

March 17: Richard May curates readings, "Irish Literary St. Patrick's Day for ODD MONDAYS." 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

March 18: WORD WEEK continues with author Prudence Breitrese's visit to Alvarado School (625 Douglass), 8:30 to 9:30 am; a children's story time, 3 to 5 pm, and a book swap for all ages, 7 to 9 pm, at Olive This Olive That, 304 Vicksburg. 251-7520.

March 19: The Noe Valley BOOK Discussion Group meets from 7 to 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 19: The UPPER NOE Community Recreation Council meets at 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. noevalleyreccenter.com.

March 19: WORD WEEK hosts an LGBT Books Panel at Cliché Noe Gifts. 7:30-9 pm. 4175 24th. 282-5416.

March 19: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB offers a panel on affordable housing, with speakers from local government, advocacy groups, and real estate interests. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond; hls5@ibew1245.com.

March 19: Radar presents a program of SPOKEN WORD featuring Sister Spit: The Next Generation. 8 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788.

March 20: Anne Zimmerman discusses *MFK Fisher: Musings on Wine and Other Libations*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 20: For WORD WEEK, Noe Valley authors Castleman, Chen, Rosen, and Yenne discuss their new novels at Folio Books. 7:30-9 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

March 20: COMEDY Returns to El Rio with Steve Lee, Bob McIntyre, Johan Miranda, and Lisa Geduldig. 8 pm. 3158 Mission. ElRiosf.com.

March 20-23: Gallery of Jewels hosts a trunk show by jewelry maker Anne Sporting. 4089 24th. 285-0626.

March 21: Deadline to submit applications for sidewalk landscaping funds available through Supervisor Scott Wiener's office. Email andres.power@sfgov.org or call 554-6968.

March 21: The Noe Valley Library screens a FILM about spelling competitions, *Akeelah and the Bee*, for ages 8 and up. 3:30-5:30. 451 Jersey. Limited space; pre-register at 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 21: It's OPEN MIC night at Word Week, open to songwriters, poets, and writers of any sort. Cliché Noe, 4175 24th. Sign up at friendsofnoevalley.com or at the shop before 7:30 p.m. 282-5416.

March 22: The OPERA for the People series continues with a talk about Jacques Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 22: WORD WEEK hosts the second annual Noe Valley AUTHORS FESTIVAL. 2-5 pm. Alvarado School, 625 Douglass. Friendsfnoevalley.com.

March 22: The Glen Park Library screens the 1952 FILM about Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *Moulin Rouge*, starring José Ferrer. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

March 23: WORD WEEK wraps up with "Paris in Noe," featuring Cara Black's new mystery, *Murder in Pigalle*, and French food, drink, and music. 7:30-9 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477.

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

March 25: Therese Poletti discusses "The Grand EMPORIUMS of San Francisco" at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

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

March 27: FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 27: Modern Times Bookstore Collective hosts a BOOK PARTY for Frank Moore, "the Stephen Hawking of performance art." 7-9 pm. 2919 24th. 282-9246.

March 29: Greg Patent introduces *The French Cook: SOUFFLES*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 30: 18 Reasons hosts a hands-on cooking class and dinner, "EASTER IN UMBRIA," with Viola Buitoni. 3-7 pm. 3674 18th. Register at 568-2710; 18reasons.org.

March 30-Nov. 23: The Glen Park Village FARMERS' MARKET is open Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm, in the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington. pcfma.com.

March 31: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts readings by poets Maxine Chernoff and Aaron Shurin. 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.

April 5: Jack Bishop discusses *The How Can It Be GLUTEN-FREE Cookbook*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

2014 April Fooled You

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

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Al-Anon Noe Valley

For families and friends of problem drinkers
Contact: 834-9940
Website: www.al-anonsf.org
Meetings: Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m.
St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street through parking lot).

Castro Area Planning + Action

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, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com
Website: noevalleydems.com
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, 710 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102; 626-7500
Email: info@friendssfpl.org

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.No ValleyMerchants.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@yahoo.com
Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoo.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
Email: mfasulis@yahoo.com
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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In the Castro In the Fillmore In Twin Peaks

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Like We Said Last Year, Wait Till Next Year

By Mazook

BEER HERE: Super Bowl Sunday in Noe Valley was a nice relaxing day. The Niners had lost two weeks before—in the *real* Super Bowl—and now the game (Feb. 2) was all about watching the commercials or the halftime show, since who won or lost really didn't matter. Time to party with no stake in the outcome (other than the money you tossed in the betting pool).

Valley Tavern was packed, as were the Dubliner, Dolores Corner, and even the Peaks. Residential streets revealed a host of party-givers and an influx of party-goers, and a bevy of cars overflowing driveways.

My strolling this year got me invited to the somewhat annual Super Bowl Party at the Elizabeth Street Brewery (ESB). I'm not a party guy, rarely drink beer or alcohol, and usually decline invites, but this one I couldn't refuse. Wow. The game—Seattle crushed Denver 43-8—was a big yawn, but the party, with about a hundred people attending, was a hoot. Somehow the beer and the bets enhanced the intensity of a great crowd of friends and neighbors. The place was rocking.

As most readers know, ESB is a brewery/beer garden in the basement of Richard and Alyson Brewer-Hay's house. Since 2003, they have been creating world-class beers for competition and inviting friends and neighbors to come by and sample their brews and offer suggestions. ESB is one of the few, if not the only, award-winning brewery in the world that has yet to sell a single mug of beer. The Brewer-Hays have won many international ribbons and awards. For example, they won first place in the 2010 World Beer Cup.

But I digress. Back to the party. First, the beer. It was, yes, world-class. I selected a very light brew created by Richard and his neighbor, after whom the beer was named. "Keough Kolsch" was a German-type ale with a 5 percent alcohol content. Smooth as could be. One glass was all I needed. Second, the food was wonderful. Lastly, the atmosphere was as pub-like as you could get—in a biermeister's den. Ain't nothing like a fun-loving crowd of neighbors all packed together. And the bonus: two of the winners of the \$5 pool gave their winnings back to the "house," which I thought was very cool.



IT'S A-BREWING: Some of you may know that Richard Brewer-Hay left corporate life last year and was contemplating becoming a full-time brewer. At the time, he was actively looking for a location in Noe Valley. Meanwhile last fall, when Supervisor Scott Wiener et al went to Utah to confer with the Nutraceutical people about a solution to the Real Food Company blight on 24th Street, the Nutra folks professed wanting to lease the space to a business "the neighborhood" would like. According to the NVBI, they even specifically mentioned ESB as a candidate.

Well, Brewer-Hay has scratched that notion. He decided to join Creative B'stro, a San Francisco digital marketing agency.

As for the brewery, he says, "For now, the brewery will remain a wonderful and pure beer-loving experience in our home." Too bad for those of us who'd like the experience to happen on 24th Street.



THE BEER GARDEN: A plan put forward by the Valley Tavern (4054 24th) to remodel the back of the bar to offer outdoor seating will go before the city's Planning Commission March 6. The tavern is seeking new permits that would allow eight bench seats and four tables accommodating 24 patrons.

According to bar co-owner Vince Hogan,

the request was prompted after neighbors complained a couple of years ago about patrons taking their beverages out to the back yard on sunny days. The Department of Alcohol Beverage Control came out and asked the Tavern to get permits to extend "the licensed premises" from the bar's back wall. "They [ABC] said they had no problem with the extension, provided we get a conditional use permit from the city for the outdoor area," says Hogan.

He says the bar has the support of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the Noe Valley Association, the POA (SF's police officers association), "as well as all the neighbors on 24th Street and those adjoining our back yard. Over six hundred people, mostly from the neighborhood, have signed letters in support of the beer garden and patio," says Hogan, "and we have met with the neighbors on 24th Street and Elizabeth." He notes that he is aware of only two individuals who have filed objections. "We have agreed that there will be no music, no smoking, and no TVs in the garden, and [we will] close no later than 10 p.m., so I think we have tried real hard to work with all those concerned, and have always tried to be good neighbors."



'BRAINSTORM IN THE RAINSTORM': The fifth annual Noe Valley Tech Search Party on Feb. 8 was a stark-raving success, despite the driving (but welcome) rain that Saturday. As reported last month in the *Voice*, the smart phone scavenger hunt, created by techie Tim Smith, is a fundraiser for three of our local schools.

According to Smith, there were 44 teams that registered in 2014, an all-time high, "which is over 200 people cavorting through the neighborhood trying to understand what my mixed-up mind came up with this year." He says over \$15,000 was raised and will be shared equally among Alvarado and Marshall elementary schools, and James Lick Middle School.

The winning team this year was the Indomitable Immersion Mamas, who have participated in every Tech Search Party and are the first repeat champions. Second place went to Smarties, and the bronze to Steel Fagnolias. The best team name award went to Love Bytes.

My favorite clue of the 10 Smith concocted was: "I L S B G L V P Q B X O L L J —Ask Caesar for Help."

The answer, according to Smith: "In cryptography, a Caesar cipher, also known as Caesar's cipher, the shift cipher, Caesar's code, or Caesar shift, is one of the simplest and most widely known encryption techniques. Shifting each letter by three spells out 'Lovejoy's Tea Room.'"

When it all was over, the TSP teams had a rendezvous at the Valley Tavern, where everyone celebrated the end of the hunt and rested their brains.



IN FOODIEVILLE: Look for the newspapers to come off the windows and the doors to be flung open any day now at a new Diamond Cafe, on the corner of Diamond and 24th Street. Café Ponte closed at January's end, and the spot's new owner, Mike Almuhtadi, is refurbishing and changing the menu back to the days of the Diamond Corner Cafe. Almuhtadi, who once lived in Glen Park, was a regular diner and fan of the cozy eatery.

Café Ponte has been for sale for about two years, so to most Ponte regulars, its closing was no surprise.

Almuhtadi, who now lives in the lower Haight, has been manager of Squat & Gobble at Market and Noe streets for the past nine years. He says he's very excited to return to his old Noe Valley haunts.

"We will be serving crepes and omelettes, pastries, bagels, and sandwiches, as well as a variety of coffee and tea drinks, and a kids' menu, of course," says Almuhtadi, "and we will be continuing to prepare school lunches for St. Philip's."

Over at the new Horner's Corner at 24th and Church, which opened in February, managing owner Ivor Bradley says the most popular items on the dinner menu are the beef short ribs and fresh cod and chips, and that the Roman Pizza (thin crust) is flying out the door. "We are having a lot of orders,

especially our pizza, for pickup," says Bradley.

Bradley says he is seeing folks in Horner's Corner whom he's seen at his other restaurant, the Creamery, located at a trendy downtown hot spot catering to techies.

Last month was the first time I've seen a line of strollers parked at this location—during the dinner hour, or any other hour for that matter. (Of course, the place used to be Noe's Bar and Grill, an institution that had grown a little crusty.)

Soon, says Bradley, the sidewalk will have extra seating for Horner's customers of all ages.

Lastly, Bradley is very proud of his Noe Valley heritage. "My grandparents came here from Ireland in the 1930s and bought a house on Valley Street, and that whole side of the family—the Ford family—was raised in St. Paul's Parish," he says. (The *Voice* will have a complete Store Trek on the new bar and grill next month.)



NEW NEW TUGTUG: Sway is gone, and the building that once housed the headquarters of Streetlight Records (3979 24th) has been sold. All the "available" and "for rent" signs are down. It appears that the new owners are faced with some retrofitting and foundation work at the building. According to the new owners' agent, Mark Kaplan, the storefront will really be "available" after that work is completed.

Kaplan says he has had a lot of interest in the store for a variety of uses. Kaplan rattled off some of the options: "a gym, clothing, nails, medical, yoga/pilates, and kid care." So which one would be your favorite?

New to Downtown Noe Valley is the stylish TugTug. It opened last month in the tiny boutique space two doors up from St. Clair's Liquors at 24th and Sanchez. (The most recent former tenant, Cardio-Tone, moved and found new digs on Church Street, partly because the one-story building at 3904-06 24th St. is destined to be demolished this year or next, to make way for new retail and housing.)

TugTug owner Regina Carter is a former teacher and current San Rafael resident. "I am delighted to have found this space," says Carter, "and hope to find a more permanent location in Noe Valley." She says she is thrilled with the early reception for her shop, which offers handmade children's garments and handcrafted toys.



SNAP SNAP: The Board of the Noe Valley Farmers Market reports, "In response to the Republicans' cutting food stamp benefits in Congress, the Farmers Market board at our [February] board meeting voted to double the value of SNAP benefits [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, aka food stamps] at our market—meaning that we will provide twice as many fruits and vegetables as the face value of these benefits to anyone using them. We have accepted EBTs [Electronic Benefit Transfer cards] for many years, but we wanted to act in opposition to the cold-heartedness and lack of

charity shown by the Republican House in particular by doubling the value of whatever benefit tokens are used at our market." That quote comes from a member of the board, but he said he wished to remain anonymous. He said he wanted the entire board to take credit for this move.



IN SOME DISTURBING NEWS from the Glen Park Association: A San Francisco animal control officer last month found 35 meatballs suspected to be poisoned and deadly to dogs and cats. The meatballs were scattered in the Twin Peaks neighborhood, where a similar incident occurred last year.

This was confirmed after a resident called Animal Care and Control to report finding parts of suspicious meatballs and the department sent an officer to scour the area near Crestline Drive and Parkridge Drive.

Supervisor Wiener had emailed the GPA, saying, "It's important for people to know that whoever is engaging in this sociopathic behavior—trying to poison people's dogs—is doing it again. It's important to spread the word so that people and their pets can be safe."



TEST TIME: And now, a Noe Valley quiz for all of you Noe-everybodies. The answers should be easily findable on your smart phones, or less. Send them to my editor at the *Noe Valley Voice* (sally@noevalleyvoice.com). Ready?

1. Who is the very famous neighborhood who lives in a rather large mansion filled, reportedly, with a \$50 million art collection?
2. Name the two men who bought a large parcel of land in what was called the Noe Garden Union Homestead?
3. Name the five bars that have previously occupied the Noe Valley Tavern location.
4. If Noe Valley is to my north, Bernal Heights/St. Mary's Park to my east, Diamond Heights to my west, and Glen Park to my south, what neighborhood am I in?
5. What was the name of the butcher shop that once was located in part of the Real Food Company building but had to move out when Real Food expanded into the whole space?
6. Who is the famous Noe Valley author and historian who wrote *San Francisco's Noe Valley*?
7. What was "Lost in the Fog"?
8. What was Douglass Park before it was a park?
9. Where was McCarthy's Super Service located?
10. True or False: Cable cars used to run in Noe Valley.



FINAL PLAY: Before I go, I have one last question: In the 49ers-Seahawks NFC Championship Game, in that failed last play—the throw to Crabtree in the end zone—why in Noe's name didn't Colin Kaepernick throw the ball to tight end Vernon Davis who was wide open in the seam? Oh, well. Just wait till next year. ■

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More Mouths to Feed



Welcome to **Milo** (left) and **Nola Novak**! The nine-month-old twins are shown here in their Noe Valley onesies. Proud parents **David** and **Lisa** had a bit of a chore getting the active duo to pose, but we're glad they did!

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