

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Neighborhood Jittery After Rash of Serious Crimes

Police Investigating Armed Assaults, Bank Robberies

By Corrie M. Anders

Shortly after 10 p.m. on a Wednesday in early October, residents settling in for the night suddenly heard the frightened screams of a woman calling for help near the intersection of Dolores and 26th streets.

Two thugs, one armed with a gun, had knocked the 32-year-old woman to the ground with a vicious punch. They were trying to steal her purse when two men driving by in a truck shined their headlights on the attackers and scared them off.

As the muggers fled, one turned and fired a shot at the victim and the vehicle. Fortunately, he missed both targets.

However, the Oct. 1 assault was among a rash of recent violent crimes that has fostered a growing disquiet in Noe Valley and prompted residents to demand more police protection.

In addition to a surge in auto and garage break-ins this fall, a 24th Street bank was held up for the second time in five months, a Noe Valley merchant was robbed at gunpoint, and a motorist was pistol-whipped and robbed in mid-October.

The driver in that incident was attacked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Light on the Tracks. This quiet night finds our valley at peace, with few still making their way home on Church Street. As Thanksgiving approaches, we're grateful for the support of a caring neighborhood and the promise of fullness at every table. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Joshua Davis Defending New Underdogs

Wired Journalist Makes Book Out of Spare Parts

By Richard May

Joshua Davis, 39, is a man who has been in jail on three continents, all for the sake of truth and journalism. He is the co-founder of *Epic* magazine, a writer and editor for *Wired* magazine, and the author of two books. He lives in Noe Valley.

As a contributing editor for *Wired* for 10 years, Davis has written about genetically modified cocaine in Colombia, investigated attempts to engineer the apocalypse in Israel, and talked the magazine into making him its war correspondent in Iraq.

He founded *Epic: True Stories* online in 2013 with partner Joshua Bearman. *Epic* allows Davis to cover topics beyond the science and technology focus of *Wired*. Bearman, not incidentally, is the man who wrote the story that became the movie *Argo*.

Both Davis and Bearman have a magazine-book-movie synergy going. Davis's experiences as an arm wrestler became the film *The Beast Within*, which was named Best Documentary at Telluride. It also became part of his first book, *The Underdog*, which chronicled Davis's youthful penchant for entering weird athletic competitions around the world, like bullfighting, backward-running, and Sumo wrestling.

His article "La Vida Robot" for *Wired* on four teenage robotics scientists is also about to become a film—*Spare Parts*—and a book by the same name. The film, starring Marisa Tomei, Jamie Lee Curtis,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Local Author Brings a Chinese Yankee to Literary Life

Ruthanne Lum McCunn's Own History Is a Backdrop

By Olivia Boler

The last few years have seen a sea change in the publishing world. Aspiring authors no longer wait for literary agents or New York publishers to dis-

cover the brilliance of their manuscripts. Instead, they self-publish independently via platforms like Book Baby, CreateSpace, and Xlibris. They sometimes bypass traditional paperbound books altogether and upload their works into an ebook format on Amazon or Smashwords. In short, authors are taking control of their destinies.

Self-publishing isn't new to Noe Valley author Ruthanne Lum McCunn. Over a career that spans more than 30 years, she has published eight books, including six novels, a collection of biographical portraits of Chinese Americans, and an American Book Award-winning children's picture book. She and her husband, Don McCunn, published her first four books through their own company, Design Enterprises of San Francisco, which they founded in 1979.

"I didn't like the publishing end of things, so I stopped," she says. "I prefer being alone in my room writing, doing research." She switched to publishing with midlist and major publishing houses like Beacon Press, Random House, Penguin, and Soho Press. Some of her early work was reissued, like her best-known book *Thousand Pieces of Gold* (Beacon Press), about a Chinese girl growing up in the 1870s in the American Northwest. In 1991, it was made into a feature film starring Rosalind Chao and Chris Cooper.

McCunn does have a website, www.mccunn.com, and an email account. In fact, without those tools, her latest book, *Chinese Yankee*, might not have come to pass.

She's quick to explain that she is a fan of the Web. "I love the Internet and technology. It brought me this story, and the



Paws for Applause. Toby, the favored feline friend of author Ruthanne Lum McCunn, expresses his wish for a treat during a visit to the home writing nook. McCunn complies, but not without offering a look at her latest novel, *Chinese Yankee*. Photo by Beverly Sharp



My, What Big Eyes You Have! Seven-year-old Taylor Grand displays the fruit of her labor at the Oct. 19 Pumpkin Carving Contest sponsored by District Supervisor Scott Wiener. The event, following on the heels of the 10th annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, attracted more than two dozen entries, and everyone went away a winner. Photo by Art Bodner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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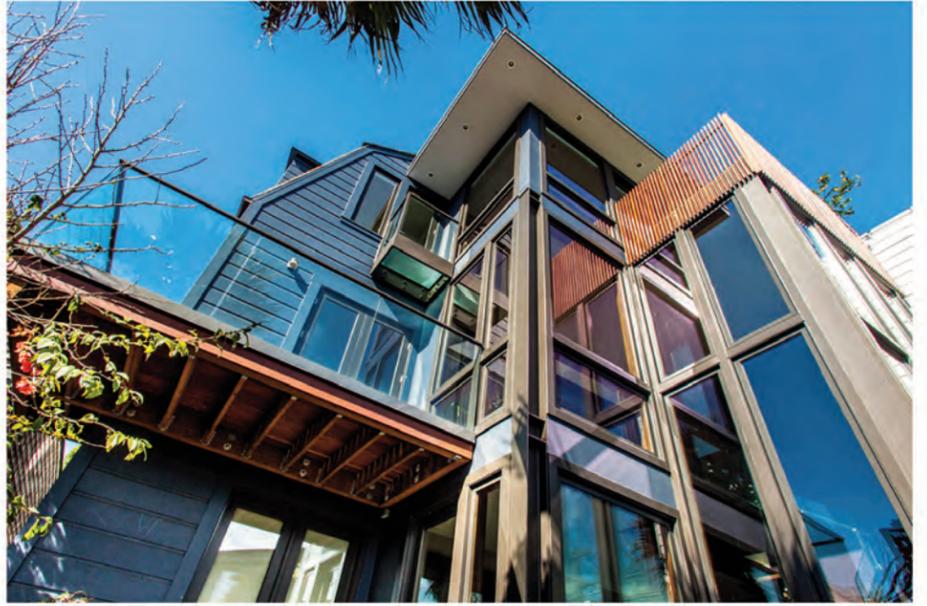


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LETTERS

Condolences from Afar

Editor:

My sympathy on the passing of your dog Bruno. I live in Minnesota, not San Francisco, but I have family in Noe Valley and they sent me the obituary from your paper. We, too, have a Bruno who is very similar—a pug and rat terrier mix—who looks much like your Bruno's picture.

Our Bruno is 10 years old, and when I showed your article to my 13-year-old daughter, who hardly remembers when Bruno wasn't part of the family, we talked about how hard it will be when Bruno is no longer with us. We are hoping that day is a long way away. I'm sorry that you are experiencing the loss of your Bruno. I very much enjoyed reading about him.

Jean Mersch

Bruno's Pet Store

Dear Sally,

I assume the obituary for Bruno in the October *Voice* is yours. What a fabulous tribute to a clearly spirited gastronome/couch surfer. Paula and I both know exactly what you're going through, and we are sending you our best wishes and deepest condolences for your loss. He sounds like an amazing dog. May he remain a presence for you always.

Celia Sack and Paula Harris

Omnivore Books & Noe Valley Pet Co.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write *The Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, address, 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.



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An Open Letter to Catholics



Four months before Pope Francis became pope, I, after serving as a Catholic priest for 40 years, was expelled from the priesthood because of my public support for the ordination of women.

I am among the many in the Catholic Church who have been inspired by Pope Francis' humility, love, and compassion.

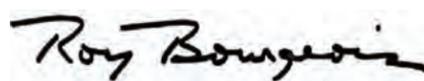
Our beloved pope has said, "I see the Church as a field hospital after a battle. The Church must heal the wounds." Therefore, I respectfully ask that we tend to the many women and gay people in our Church who have been seriously wounded by Church teachings that demean and discriminate against them.

1. Women in the Church Our Church teaches that men and women are created equal. Catholic priests say that the call to be a priest comes from God. However, devout Catholic women who believe God is calling them to be priests are rejected because of their gender. How can men say that their call from God is authentic, but God's call to women is not? Let's face it. The problem is not with God or women, but with an all-male clerical culture that views women as lesser than men.

2. Gays in the Church In answering a question about persons who are gay, Pope Francis said, "Who am I to judge?" While we are grateful that the Pope does not judge people for being gay, our Church certainly does. The official teaching of the Catholic Church states that homosexuals are "objectively disordered." For millions of gays and lesbians, this teaching instills shame and self-hatred. It has contributed to their being expelled from their families, fired from their jobs, and even killed. The teaching has contributed to suicides, too, especially among teenagers. Let's face it. Being gay is not a problem with our all-loving God who has created everyone of equal worth and dignity. The problem is with Church leaders who view homosexuals as lesser than heterosexuals.

When there is injustice, silence is complicity. As Catholics, let us stop making God our partner in discriminating against women and gay people. I ask that you contact Pope Francis and your local bishop and priests. Request that our Catholic Church ordain women, accept LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people as equals, and recognize gay marriage.

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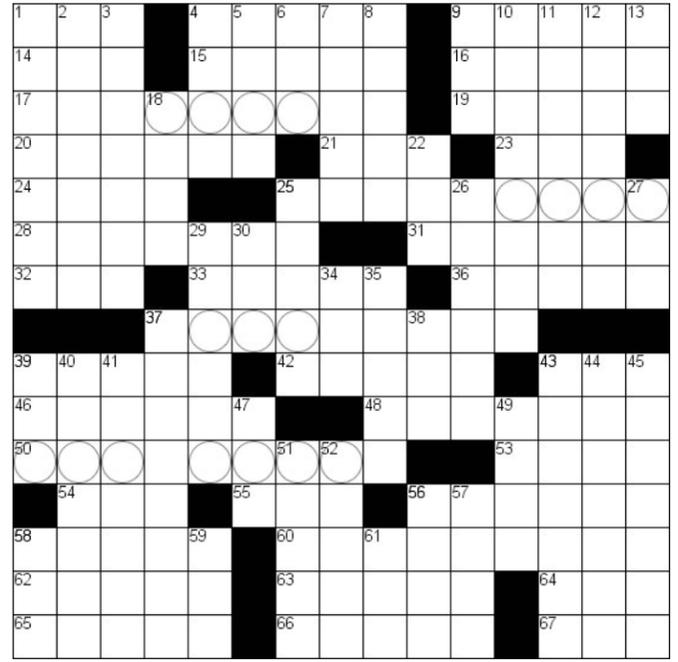
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Decode This

ACROSS

1. Opposite of “oui”
4. Early anesthetic
9. Geometry topic
14. Clean Air Act agcy.
15. Keaton or Sawyer
16. Putted (out)
17. Quality of a tot who really needs a nap
19. Strait-laced
20. *Hiroshima* author John
21. 180-degree turn, slangily
23. Some meditation chants
24. ___ vera
25. One- or two-bite confection, from French for “little oven”
28. Anatomical chest protector
31. Inherent character
32. Mai ___ cocktail
33. Rwandan people
36. Shimon of Israel
37. First few months for a new President, popularly
39. Common inert gas
42. Terrible mess, in military slang
43. Suffix in some bubble-gum names
46. Excite sexually
48. Language heard in Barcelona
50. Willa Cather novel that won a 1923 Pulitzer
53. Issue, as a traffic ticket
54. Poivre neighbor
55. CSI lab stuff
56. GWTW’s Butler and namesakes
58. Holiday extra in a pay envelope
60. Post-office cartoon pitchman from the 1960s, and a hint to



- why this is a Noe Valley puzzle
62. Energizes
 63. Lauder of cosmetics
 64. “Green” prefix
 65. “Based on ___ story”
 66. Lukewarm
 67. Profit after expenses
- DOWN**
1. 1980s sitcom about a psychologist
 2. Sister of Laertes
 3. Kenya’s capital
 4. Falco of *Nurse Jackie*
 5. Microscopic
 6. Possess, to Burns
 7. Happen next
 8. Bowling-lane button
 9. Sounds emerging from Elisa’s spa?
 10. Seldom
 11. Cosmopolitan competitor
 12. Free time
 13. Dept. that issues unemployment checks
 18. Fraction of a fraction of a min.
 22. Yang counterpart
 25. 24th St. laundry
 26. Beat with one’s fingertips, as a rhythm
 27. Abbr. on a calling card after “bus.”
 29. Like ___ bricks
 30. Rev, as an engine
 34. Roget’s item, briefly
 35. Some Apple Store purchases
 37. Pearl Harbor locale
 38. Three ___ kind
 39. From ___ Z
 40. Abandons
 41. Like the other side’s grass?
 43. Yokemate of Donner
 44. Pie-crust pattern
 45. Half of “snake eyes”
 47. Begin to fall asleep
 49. Excellent server?
 51. Like needs that are still needed
 52. Poker action
 56. E. Coast hwy.
 57. Obey
 58. Academy of Arts University deg.
 59. Direction of Alemany Farmer’s Market, from Noe Valley
 61. “The Racer’s Edge”

Solution on Page 29
NOTE:The current Voice Crossword and all past puzzles can be found at www.noevalleyvoice.com

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Crime Ticks Up In Neighborhood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at Dolores and 24th streets, four blocks from where the woman had been attacked.

Residents Call 911

Mark O'Neill was inside his 26th Street home on Oct. 1, when he heard the woman's cries of distress.

"I heard her screaming and I grabbed the phone to dial 911," said O'Neill, a retired Veterans Administration worker. "Then the shot rang out and I flattened on the floor. I didn't know how many more shots were going to be fired."

"After 30 seconds is when I decided to venture out," O'Neill said.

Police spokesman Gordon Shyy said the two men riding by in the truck "illuminated the suspects" with their vehicle's headlights, prompting the gunfire and the suspects' flight. Shyy said the woman was taken to a hospital, bruised but not seriously injured.

Dave Donahue, a Fair Oaks Street resident, said the attack occurred just outside his bedroom window as he was putting his infant son to bed. He called police, too.

"I'm still trying to forget the screams," Donahue said. The yelling and the gunshot were "just awful."

Donahue, an executive for a software

company, may have been more jittery than usual because his family's garage had been burglarized in June, he said. Thieves took three bicycles and riding helmets valued at more than \$2,000.

Police officers who responded told him that "there are some sophisticated bike thieves that operate in San Francisco" and that "they go block by block at night," scouting vulnerable situations.

Persistent Burglaries

Capt. Daniel Perea, head of Mission Station, which oversees much of Noe Valley, said the neighborhood "is one of the nicest and safest" in the city. "It's a great area."

But he acknowledged, "Unfortunately, there has been an increase in certain types of crime in Noe Valley." The most notable, he said, were the bank robberies, persistent home and auto burglaries, and "serious" assaults, like the one the woman experienced.

"These two guys were definitely at the right place at the right time for all involved," the captain said, referring to the riders in the truck who disrupted the attack.

Equally serious was the pistol-whipping incident, which occurred on Oct. 16. Police said the motorist, a 37-year-old man, was rear-ended at Dolores and 24th streets at 2:20 a.m. When he got out of his car to exchange insurance information, someone struck him in the back of the head, stole his wallet, a duffel bag, and cell phone, and escaped in a silver sedan.

The man was treated at a local hospital for a non-life-threatening head wound.

Less Fun for Some on 24th

Perea could not quantify how much crime had risen in the past year. But store owner David Eiland said anxiety was palpable along 24th Street, the primary shopping corridor for Noe Valley residents.

"You can just see it and feel it," said Eiland, co-owner of Just for Fun, a gift shop on 24th. "It is very disturbing."

Eiland cited the September armed robbery of a nail salon, a violent shoplifting at a bicycle shop, half a dozen night-time burglaries at local businesses, and the two holdups at Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th St.

In the most recent heist, on Sept. 29, two men entered the bank around 2:30 p.m. and confronted several tellers. One robber simulated a gun while the second went behind the counter and scooped up an undisclosed amount of cash. The bandits, who wore sunglasses, may have escaped in a waiting black SUV, according to local police and the FBI, which investigates crimes at federal institutions.

The earlier holdup occurred May 22. A man entered the branch, gave a teller a note demanding money, and escaped on foot. Umpqua now has a uniformed guard stationed inside the branch.

Beat Officer Missed

Eiland said crime began to increase after Lorraine Lombardo, the lone police officer dedicated to the Noe Valley beat, was sidelined—and not replaced—after

she suffered an on-duty injury last November.

Eiland wrote Supervisor Scott Wiener, asking for his help in getting the beat restaffed.

Wiener told the *Voice* that he was "aware of the uptick in crime in Noe Valley" and has been consulting with Perea, but was unsure when the understaffed department could fill Lombardo's position.

Capt. Perea also was uncertain. "I can't speak to when she is going to return," Perea said about Lombardo, a popular officer who frequently made her rounds on a bicycle. "I want her back. The first day she's back, she's going to be on 24th Street back on the beat."

Meanwhile, Perea said he had directed patrol officers to get out of their cars, with at least two of them strolling once a day between St. Philip Church on upper 24th Street and the Happy Donuts shop at 24th and Church streets.

"Just having a presence helps to deter certain kinds of crime," he said.

A police academy class is scheduled to graduate in December, which Wiener said might lead to additional patrols in the future.

"It's my hope and desire that when Mission Station gets new staffing from that class," Wiener said, "a beat officer can be reinstated for Noe Valley at that point."

At press time, there had been no arrests in the bank robberies, nor in the separate assaults on the woman and motorist. Investigations were ongoing. ■



WANTED IN SEPTEMBER BANK ROBBERY: The FBI has released surveillance photographs of two men suspected of robbing Umpqua Bank on 24th Street on Monday, Sept. 29. The suspects, one armed with a gun, entered the Noe Valley branch about 2:30 p.m. One jumped behind the teller's counter and scooped up an undisclosed amount of money. The robbers may have fled in a late-model black SUV.

Witnesses described the first suspect as a black man with a thin build, about 25 to 30 years

old, approximately 5-foot-10, and wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, jeans, black baseball cap with a logo, and sunglasses. The second suspect was described as a black man about 40 years old, approximately 5-foot-10, with a medium build, shaved head, and short beard, wearing a brown oversized suit jacket, brown dress pants, and black sunglasses.

The FBI said the suspects should be considered armed and dangerous. Information about the men's identity can be directed to the FBI at 415-553-7400 or via email at tips.fbi.gov.

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McCunn Pens True Story of Chinese ‘Freedom Fighter’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

research is accessible almost instantly. But I want to be in control of it. I don't want it to control me."

Playing the part of publisher has also become much easier, which is why she decided to release *Chinese Yankee* this fall, through Design Enterprises.

Like most of her works, the novel is based on a true story, that of a Chinese man, Thomas "Ah Yee Way" Sylvanus, who as a boy was forced into slavery in the United States. He eventually ran away and fought for the Union in the Civil War. Though nearly blinded in his first campaign, Sylvanus reenlisted twice, and was captured and held in a Confederate stockade for nine months. After the war, he settled down in the town of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

McCunn first heard of Sylvanus from Will Radell, an Indiana native and member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He contacted her after reading an online synopsis of an article she wrote in the 1990s for the Chinese Historical Society of America. The article was about Chinese Americans who'd served in the Civil War.

"There were several of them, but Thomas's story in particular seized me by the throat." She felt a connection to him

not only because they were both from Hong Kong, but because of his tenacity to keep going despite the obstacles against him, on and off the battlefield.

"He truly was a freedom fighter."

A Room of Her Own

McCunn works in her home office with a view that extends beyond Candlestick Park and the Bay. She and Don have lived in their Castro Street Victorian for nearly 40 years, since 1975.

"We wanted to buy in North Beach or Clement Street, but we couldn't afford it," she says with a laugh. "Our realtor told us, 'I have the perfect house for you.' It was in a horrible state of disrepair. Completely uninhabitable." But the house had the views, bright light, and high ceilings. The couple took on the renovation job with gusto.

"We really lucked out," she says. "The realtor was right—this was the house for us. I'm so glad we didn't have the money for North Beach or Clement!"

Noe Valley in the 1970s was much different than it is today, McCunn recalls. "It was really funky. There were great places along 24th Street—a lot of bars, empty storefronts. We'd walk to the Meat Market Coffeehouse, where the Little Chihuahua is now. You could see hooks in the ceiling from when it was an actual meat market, and a Chinese American operated it."

The Immigrant Experience

The 68-year-old author was born in San Francisco's Chinatown, but raised in



Ruthanne Lum McCunn returns to her independent publishing roots with *Chinese Yankee*, her sixth historical novel on the Chinese immigrant experience. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Born in Hong Kong, Ah Yee Way had no more choice in coming to America in the mid-19th century than enslaved Africans. He fought in the Civil War as Thomas Sylvanus.

—Author's note to the reader

Excerpt from *Chinese Yankee*

By Ruthanne Lum McCunn

Thomas thrills at the papers in his pocket testifying he's a true blue Chinese Yankee. But he knows citizenship doesn't guarantee a man the vote.

The fight for Negro franchise yet raging, he could be stopped from voting for being colored. Fortunately, the November day is glaringly bright, cold, and windy, allowing him to pull his cap low on his brow, wrap his muffler up half his face, as any sensible man would, before setting off.

Plunging into the dauntingly noisy, boisterous crowd around the polling place on the corner of Clymer and Water streets, he's thankful for his precautions. Even through his muffler, he can smell the liquored breath of Republicans and Democrats shouting slogans, roughnecks yelling threats, and to make any headway towards the voting window, he's got to push, shove, elbow, and stomp hard as those ahead of him.

No, harder.

As he vies for supremacy over those cutting into the noisy, roiling mess, fisticuffs break out between hoodlums. His nerves jangling, he dodges and ducks to avoid inadvertent blows: Leastways, the troublemakers are too preoccupied with each other to single him out!

He anticipates three Election Judges seated behind a voting window, under which will be a platform about a yard wide and a foot high that voters must mount to present their papers for approval to cast their ballots.

As he tilts his head back, looks up, and climbs onto the platform, though, a pair of Volunteer Challengers flanking the window blindside him, booming: "It's the Chinaman!" "Colored!" "Foreigner!" "Not twenty-one!" "Not qualified to vote!"

Lickety-split many take up the Challengers' condemnations, and the Election Judge's "Name?" is all but drowned. Moreover, the platform beneath his feet is being jostled alarmingly, hands are grabbing at him, and with fingertips brushing his legs and arms, tugging at the ends of his muffler, he's having to prance, leap, and twirl to elude their grasp while pulling out his discharge and naturalization papers, then thrusting them through the window to the Election Judges and hollering above the racket, "Thomas Sylvanus, citizen, born in China July 4, 1845!"

Some close enough to hear burst into laughter.

"Our nation's birthday!"

"The Chinaman really is a Yankee!"

"A dancing Yankee!"

"Look at that fancy footwork!"

The two Volunteer Challengers—bobbing up and down alongside him as he kicks and jumps on the jouncing platform—careen so near that their fiery breath itches and burns his ears: "Slanty-eyed!" "No beard!" "Not a whisker!" "Underage!"

From behind the window, the three Election Judges belt their decision: "Citizen! Over twenty-one! Qualified to vote!"

Jubilantly, Thomas whips out his ballot for President and Vice-President, hands it in for himself, his dead comrades.

Published with author's permission from *Chinese Yankee* by Ruthanne Lum McCunn Design Enterprises of San Francisco (2014), deofsf.com

Hong Kong, her Chinese mother's home. McCunn's father was from Idaho, a merchant mariner of Scottish descent. Since he traveled so much, it made sense for McCunn's mother to return to the city she dearly missed with her children (McCunn has two older sisters). Cantonese is McCunn's first language, although she also learned English while growing up.

McCunn did not return to the United States until she was 16, on a visit to her sister Robin, who was living in Idaho with their paternal grandmother. Their father had passed away by then.

"I knew nothing about America," she says. "It was vastly different from Hong Kong. So provincial, and so white!" she laughs. "I was supposed to stay there for the summer, but I left almost straight away."

She joined some Hawaiian Chinese friends who were going to the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle. She traveled by bus to Vancouver, down to the Bay Area, then back north to Willamette University, in Salem, Oregon, where she was supposed to enroll. "I took a look at it and knew I would never make it there either."

Instead, she went back to the Bay Area, where her Hong Kong family had a lot of connections. She lived for two years with friends in Walnut Creek. "That family saved me. They understood the whole immigrant experience," she says. "I mean, here I was, speaking the Queen's English. People thought I was a snob and I was so obviously foreign."

Becoming a Writer

McCunn attended community college, where she met Don, and transferred to UC Berkeley. The couple married when McCunn was 19, and for a year she was a Navy wife. When Don got out, they both finished up their bachelor's degrees at the University of Texas at Austin.

"If it weren't for Don, I'd never have become a writer," she says.

Since she was 7, she had wanted to write. But when her tradition-bound elders would catch her writing anything

other than homework or a letter to her father, they'd tell her, "Don't waste paper!"

"There was a shortage after the war for everything, including paper," McCunn says. "But also a lot of Asian families tracked their children." When she told them she wanted to be a writer, they told her that was nonsense. Her dreams were stamped out.

"Don kept encouraging me. He's a fearless dreamer. If he has a dream, he just goes for it."

Even so, McCunn did not start writing seriously until she was 30. In the meantime, she earned her teaching credential at San Francisco State University and taught in a middle school Chinese bilingual program. "There was a big immigration rush from Hong Kong after 1965, when the immigration laws were finally equitable," she says.

She had to create curriculum materials to educate her students about the long history of Chinese in America. She wrote an illustrated book for her students. "There was such a desperate need for something

like that at the time. So, actually I've written nine books!"

Chinese Yankee will be available on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. McCunn will read at the San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch, in the Latino Hispanic Community Room on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 6:30 p.m. The event is free.



At left is an excerpt from *Chinese Yankee*, in which Thomas Sylvanus gets to vote in a post-war election. "Until researching for this book, I didn't realize that voters back then didn't enjoy the secret ballot we cherish today," McCunn says.

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Joshua Davis Puts All the Parts Into Play

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and George Lopez, opens in Phoenix in January. The book will be published Dec. 2.

Spare Parts the book almost never happened. The decade-long saga began one October 2004 day in Josh Davis's office. A press release arrived electronically—dozens do every day—but this one was different. For one thing it was loaded with grammatical errors and strange formatting. Definitely not from a professional publicist. But beyond typos it contained a most unusual story. Four Phoenix, Arizona, high school students had defeated MIT and other major centers of learning in a national technology education robotics competition. The high school students had built their robot out of scavenged parts for under \$1,000. Unbelievable. Davis almost deleted the email, but something made him keep his finger off the button.

The unsightly news release sat in his computer inbox for months. Each new, more professional news release from someone else reminded Davis of the strange one from Phoenix. Finally, he took another look and copied a phone number off the screen. He called the contact in Phoenix and spoke with the teacher-sponsor of the students. He checked out the story. The insurmountable-odds angle intrigued him, and nobody else was covering it. He discovered the students had been undocumented immigrants from Mexico. He wrote the article for *Wired*.

The book came more slowly. Davis had told the feel-good story of the immigrant kids winning the big prize in the article. Now, he wanted to know what happened next and thought his readers would too. He kept in touch with the students, heard about the twists and turns of their lives, and wrote the second half of the story. He still talks with the four young men every week or so. They will attend the film's world premiere in Phoenix, where the story began.

Noe Valley will have its own world premiere of sorts. The national launch for the book—whose full title is *Spare Parts*:



In 2005, Joshua Davis wrote a piece about the triumph of four undocumented teens in a national underwater-robotics competition. Now he's telling their story in a book and awaiting the January premiere of the feature-length film. Photo © Sebastian Mlynarski

Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream—will happen here Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m., at Folio Books on 24th Street, across from Whole Foods. Joshua Davis will read from the book, discuss the story, and answer questions. Copies of *Spare Parts* and *The Underdog* will be available for purchase and signing. Ten percent of the net sales will go to James Lick Middle School in Noe Valley and Buena Vista Elementary in the Mission. Davis's kids attend Buena Vista.

When asked why people should read *Spare Parts*, Davis replied, "I'm hoping people will be inspired by these kids like I was, and ask themselves how we treat people who come here looking for oppor-

tunity and better lives. How as a country do we welcome them, or not welcome them?"

Serendipity intervened in the book launch as well. Folio Books is Davis's neighborhood bookstore, of course. One day he was in the store, buying books. When he opened his wallet, owner Paula Foley noticed his business card. "Epic? What's that?" The answer to that question led to a conversation, which led to the launch for his book being set in Noe Valley.

Is there a next book and movie? Maybe, says Davis. "The value of a book is that you can get perspective and find meaning." Foremost, however, he is a magazine writer, continuing to file articles for *Wired* and *Epic*. Most recently, he was approaching deadline for an *Epic* true story about an art heist in Venice. Of course, Davis went to Venice for research.

Serendipity played a part in Davis's living in Noe Valley too. His wife, Tara, was assigned as a master teacher to James Lick Middle School. While on walks around the neighborhood, she got the idea she and Davis should move here from North Beach. Ten years and two kids later, they are still on Clipper Street.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux will publish both English and Spanish editions of Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream (trade paperback, \$14). Meet author Joshua Davis at the national book launch Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St.; 415-821-3477. Champagne will be served, and there will be robots.



From *Spare Parts* by Joshua Davis

I pulled up the note, called the school, and asked to speak to the teacher in charge of the robotics team. I ended up on the phone with a man named Fredi Lajvardi.

I could hear kids talking in the background and the thump-thump-thump of some kind of electronic music. Fredi explained that his students were in the midst of building a new robot, but he was excited to talk. Over the summer, a local TV station had aired a segment about the school's success, but nobody seemed to pay attention. I was the first national journalist to call.

"When there's a fight or something, the press is all over us," he said. "We do something good, nobody pays attention."

The last time they had a brawl at the school, he told me, his students piloted a small, homemade robot past the news crew that had arrived. When that elicited little response, they drove circles around the camera. That prompted a few questions, but the crew largely ignored them. The journalists were there to talk about thugs, not robots.

I was intrigued. "So just back up a bit. How did your kids end up in an underwater-robotics competition?"

Fredi chuckled. "You're skeptical, right? So were the judges."

Excerpted from Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream by Joshua Davis, to be published in December 2014 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Copyright © 2014 by Joshua Davis. All rights reserved.

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1954: Nancy Luscia in the back yard, helping the flowers grow.

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Luscia Roddick
1948-2014

Editor's Note: Nancy Roddick, wife of Noe Valley attorney Robert Roddick, died on Aug. 5, 2014. An esteemed member of the community, Nancy Roddick worked tirelessly for Noe Valley. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors honored her memory by adjourning their proceedings early on Sept. 2. Son Daniel Roddick shared this personal portrait of his mother and his family's roots in California.

My mom, Nancy Luscia Roddick, was a Noe Valley native. She lived up the Castro Street hill, on Hill Street, pretty much her entire life. Her family's maternal line came out to California during the Gold Rush, by 1852 if not earlier. By 1876, that branch of the family was living in San Francisco. Being Irish meant that many of the men in the family worked in the city's fire department. In fact, in 1906 Nancy's great-grandfather drove his company's horse-drawn fire engine across town, putting out fires resulting from the Great Earthquake.

Her father's family was Italian, and settled in the Gold Country as well, before moving to San Francisco in the 1910s, re-



1970: Nancy and Bob Roddick's engagement photo taken in Golden Gate Park.

portedly to find Aunt Bernice a suitable husband. By 1930, her parents, Ruth Catherine McLaughlin and Melvin John Luscia, were married and living in an apartment in Glen Park. By World War II, they had moved up to Aunt Carrie's 1902 Victorian on Hill Street. Once peacetime returned, Nancy Luscia was conceived and came into the world on April 14, 1948.

After attending Alvarado and Douglass Grammar Schools and James Lick Middle School in Noe Valley (then called James Lick Junior High), Nancy attended Lowell High School, where she was elected homecoming queen her senior year. After graduating in 1965, she enrolled at City College of San Francisco and for a short time rented an apartment in the Inner Sunset. But within a year she was drawn back to Noe Valley. By then she had met Robert Thomas Roddick, another Noe Valley native. He had attended Edison Elementary, James Lick, Lowell High School, and also CCSF before going on to San Francisco State University. (Their first meeting occurred when Dad was on transit leave after U.S. Air Force boot camp.)

Nancy and "Bob" were married on Feb. 13, 1971, in San Francisco, and moved into the bottom flat of her parents' Victorian on Hill Street.

"Nancy was one of the first classmates I got to know, and we became instant friends," remembers Cheryl Wong-Ng ("Aunt Cheryl"), who moved to Noe Valley at the age of 12, when her parents bought St. Philip's Market on 24th at Diamond Street. "I don't know what it was that drew us to each other but throughout James Lick, Lowell, and City College, Nancy and I stayed close friends. I was honored to be Nancy's maid of honor when she and Bob got married, and again honored to be the godmother of their first-born child, Jennifer. I will always have fond memories of times we shared."

My dad had been a fireman before deciding to pursue a legal career, attending Lincoln University at night. After initially practicing law out of their home, Dad and Mom founded Noe Valley Law Offices on Castro Street in 1992. She worked alongside Dad as an office administrator and paralegal for 30 years.

They had three children in the 1970s: Jennifer Elizabeth, Julianne Victoria, and me, Daniel Christian. All of us went to St. Philip School, and all of us continue to live in San Francisco, two right here in Noe Valley.

Mom's love of children led her to become a Girl Scout troop leader, for both the Noe Valley Brownie and Noe Valley Junior Girl Scout Troops. For many years, she organized their annual summer camp at Camp Ida Smith at Lake Merced. Cookie sales were off the charts—so much so that the troops, two dozen girls with chaperones, earned a trip to Disneyland one year.

For my mom, it was a simple step to move from troop leader to director of the St. Philip Day Care Center, which was built



Wedding Day, Feb. 13, 1971: Nancy and bridesmaids pose on the front steps of her parents' Hill Street home.

by parishioner volunteers in 1986. She served as director of the center's extended day care for its first five years. She also volunteered on the St. Philip Parish Council and worked on St. Philip's Festival, a Noe Valley tradition.

In the 1990s, she served as a eucharist minister in the Catholic Church, bringing communion to those unable to attend mass in person. She also was a participating member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, in honor of her Irish heritage. And yes she could make a mean plate of spaghetti, a nod to her Italian side.

She was active in other ways too throughout the neighborhood. In the 1970s, she was a founding member of the Friends of Noe Valley. She served as the group's first treasurer. In 2008, she was a benefactor of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library and helped support the library's restoration campaign.

At Noe Valley Law Offices, she navigated her way through the dynamics of technological change, from typewriter to computer, before retiring at age 62.

My mom was always a thoughtful, considerate person, especially when others didn't notice. She was spontaneous at times, but courteous. She was faithful yet independent. Dad, who adored her, affirms, "I was truly blessed with a remarkable partner."

In her final years, she battled Alzheimer's disease and its many cascading difficulties. She went to the Catholic Charities Alzheimer's Day Care Center for over a year. In her last months, she resided in a 24-hour care home in San Mateo

County, and was visited by family and friends many times a week. She passed away peacefully on Aug. 5 at the age of 66.

Funeral services were held for Nancy Roddick on Aug. 16, at St. Philip's Church. State Senator Mark Leno noted in his state Resolution 905 dated Aug. 15, "[Nancy was] a loving and caring individual who lived life to the fullest, whose generosity was extended to everyone without hesitation or expectation of reward, and whose spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of all her loved ones."



2012: Enjoying a sunny day, in the same spot where she used to water plants as a girl.

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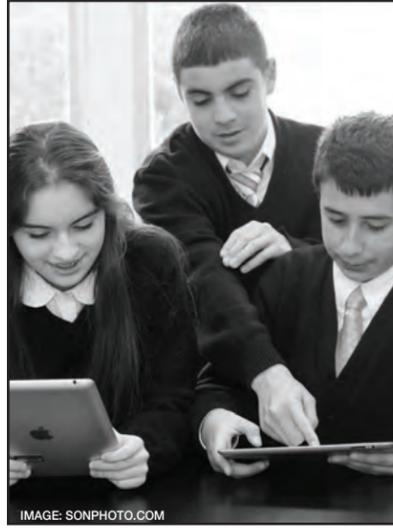
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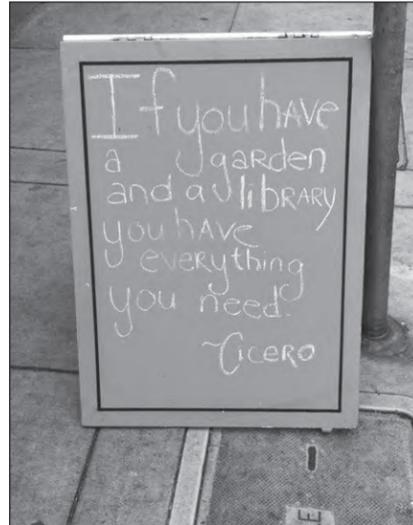
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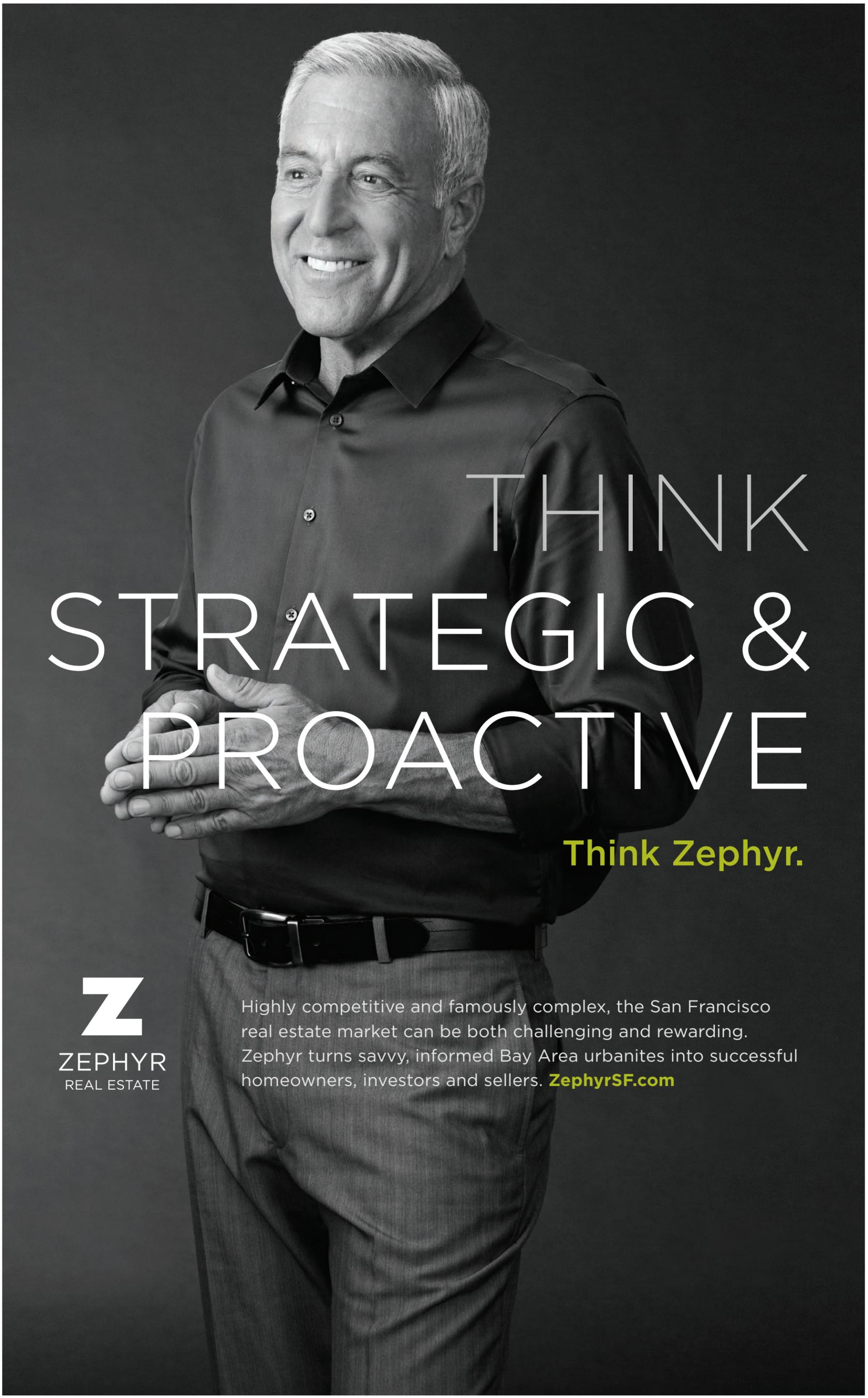


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Price Range: \$1.4 to \$3.7 Million

By Corrie M. Anders

Home shoppers purchased eight single-family homes in Noe Valley in September, according to sales data Zephyr Real Estate provides monthly to the *Noe Valley Voice*.

That number was nearly the same as last September, when seven detached homes were sold. The main difference year to year was the size of the price tag.

Zephyr Real Estate president Randall Kostick said all eight of the September 2014 houses sold for upwards of \$1.4 million, and two sold for more than \$3 million.

Those two doozies pushed the average sales price of neighborhood homes to \$2.1 million—37 percent more than the \$1.5 million buyers typically paid in September of last year. (Note: Our small sample sizes diminish the significance of these price comparisons.)



This modern dwelling on Diamond Street, constructed over the summer, sold in September for \$3.7 million. The home sports four bedrooms, three baths, and a three-car garage.

The most expensive property sold this September was a newly built home sitting high on the ridge line along the 1700 block of Diamond Street near 29th Street. The \$3.7 million final sale was \$75,000 less than the initial asking price for the home.

New owners are enjoying four bedrooms and three baths in 3,670 square feet



Buyers paid \$1.6 million for a condominium in this building on 25th Street, which affords impressive views of downtown and the East Bay.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
September 2014	8	\$1,420,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,112,500	27	109%
August 2014	9	\$1,349,000	\$5,150,000	\$2,311,444	23	122%
September 2013	7	\$1,190,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,538,571	36	107%
Condominiums						
September 2014	7	\$602,000	\$1,589,000	\$1,113,679	37	107%
August 2014	11	\$405,000	\$1,599,000	\$1,134,364	42	114%
September 2013	4	\$900,100	\$2,030,000	\$1,319,775	28	107%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
September 2014	2	\$1,300,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,875,000	25	132%
August 2014	4	\$1,250,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,772,500	27	117%
September 2013	3	\$1,000,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,121,667	97	102%
5+-unit buildings						
September 2014	1	\$5,250,000	\$5,250,000	\$5,250,000	58	95%
August 2014	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2013	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for providing sales data. NVV 11/2014

of space, plus an array of high-tech and green features including multi-zone radiant heat, a fully wired media room, and an electric car charger in a three-car garage.

The second most expensive house is located in the 500 block of Jersey Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets. Buyers paid \$3,000,500—25 percent more than the asking price—to snag the four-bedroom, three-bath home, which offered 2,679 square feet of living space, two balconies, downtown views, and one-car parking.

Condominium shoppers also were active. They purchased seven attached units in September, compared to four sales a year earlier and 11 transactions in August of this year.

The top seller was a renovated condo in a two-unit building that sold for slightly under \$1.6 million. The four-bedroom, three-bath home is located in the 4700 block of 25th Street, between Fountain Street and Grand View Avenue.

The unit featured 1,901 square feet of space, sweeping views of downtown and the East Bay, a private garden, and one-car parking. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range October 2014	Average October 2014	Average September 2014	Average October 2013
Studio	5	\$2,000 – \$3,300	\$2,379 / mo.	\$2,385 / mo.	\$2,250 / mo.
1-bdrm	26	\$1,600 – \$3,995	\$2,773 / mo.	\$2,960 / mo.	\$2,740 / mo.
2-bdrm	37	\$2,999 – \$6,900	\$4,418 / mo.	\$4,407 / mo.	\$4,328 / mo.
3-bdrm	22	\$4,000 – \$9,750	\$6,257 / mo.	\$6,658 / mo.	\$5,382 / mo.
4+-bdrm	2	\$6,300 – \$7,990	\$7,145 / mo.	\$7,798 / mo.	\$7,914 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 92 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from Oct. 6 to 15, 2014. NVV 11/2014

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Four Friends Reunited after 30 years pause to enjoy the Noe Valley Voice at a beach resort in Goa, India. They now live in the four corners of the world from Noe Valley to Perth, Australia, Toronto, Canada and Mumbai, India. *Photo courtesy of Feroza Unvala*

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SHORT TAKES

Free Noe Valley Walking Tours

New to Noe? Not new but need to know Noe more? Then take a hike! The group San Francisco City Guides offers walking tours of Noe Valley every month on the first and third Sundays (except April 5). Tours run two hours, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and start at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

On the walk you'll learn fascinating facts about the neighborhood, such as who the heck was Noe anyway and what was Walgreens before it was Walgreens. Tours are led by volunteers, who let you take frequent breaks to catch your breath and soak up information. Guide coordinator Sue Walsh says the walk has no steep inclines but be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Please leave pets at home.

Meet your guide on the library steps at 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond. Tours are held rain or shine. The next four dates are Nov. 2 and 16 and Dec. 7 and 21.

No reservations are necessary, but you can get more information at 415-557-4266 or at www.sfcityguides.org.

Noe Valley walking tours are projects of the nonprofit San Francisco City Guides, a partner of the San Francisco Parks Alliance. City Guides was founded over 30 years ago, although the first tours were just inside City Hall. Now the guides lead tours through neighborhoods all across San Francisco. The walking tours are free, but donations are welcome, online or on the walk.

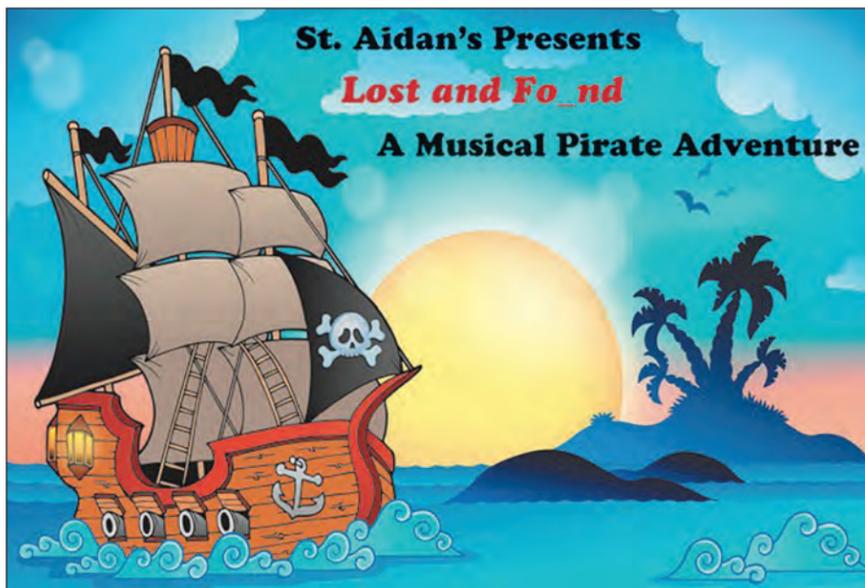
—Richard May

Pirates on the Dessert Isle

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Diamond Heights hosts its 11th annual musical production Nov. 14-16.

This year it's *Lost and Found: A Musical Pirate Adventure*, the original story of a race to beat a band of pirates to the tasty treats on the Dessert Isle, pun intended. Why is the "u" missing? "They'll have to see a performance to find out!" says producer Betsy Eddy.

Lost and Found was written by parishioner John Wilk, who is also the director. The play is full of upbeat show tunes, pop songs, classical music, and gospel. Musical direction is by Scrumby Koldewyn, of Cockettes fame. The choreography was created by Preeti Mann. The show is suitable for adults and children over 5.



Lost and Found, a musical written and directed by John Wilk, with musical direction by Scrumby Koldewyn, will be performed Nov. 14-16 at St. Aidan's Church in Diamond Heights.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

General admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (5-18). Priority seating up front is available Friday and Saturday for \$30. Go to www.saintaidan.org for more information. Buy tickets online from Brown Paper Tickets and at the door. Proceeds benefit St. Aidan's Church and its community outreach.

St. Aidan's is located at 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard. Public transit alternatives from Noe Valley include the 35-Eureka or the 48-Quintara. You can walk 5 to 10 minutes to the church, or transfer to the 52-Excelsior, which runs along Diamond Heights Boulevard. For drivers, parking is allowed in the Diamond Heights Safeway parking lot, across the street from the church.

—Richard May

Stop, Look, and Listen

The next step in making the 24th Street shopping corridor safer for pedestrians will start the first week of January, according to Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association, the neighborhood's self-taxing community benefit district (CBD).

New bus-bulb construction had been scheduled to start in September, but merchants asked the city's Department of Public Works to delay the project until after the holidays. Construction is expected to take less than two months, depending on the weather, Niemann said.

The improvements will include three "bulb-outs"—curb extensions that allow buses to pick up passengers while staying in the traffic lane—and high-visibility crosswalks along 24th Street at Castro, Noe, and Church streets.

Niemann said the city had not yet allotted money for traffic improvements at the intersection of 24th and Sanchez, but the CBD was asking for a high-visibility crosswalk there as well, for safety reasons. She said public support for the request would be welcome.

The crosswalks will be similar to the one now at 24th and Castro, except that the brick-like pattern on the street will be terra cotta colored, not white. "Neighbors said that the white was too bright," Niemann said. She added that the terra cotta would go with the brick work in the new bulb-outs.

Other improvements will be benches at all three bulb-outs, a new bus shelter on the southeast corner of Castro and 24th streets, and new bike racks along 24th Street. The racks will be installed in stages, Niemann said. An example already exists outside the shop Just for Fun on 24th between Noe and Sanchez.

—Richard May

Recycle Your Old Electronics

Know that jumble of computer cables, modems, and used ink cartridges you've been promising to safely discard? Here's your chance.

Castro Computer Services is sponsoring a free electronics recycling event on Saturday, Nov. 8. You can drop off everything from computers, monitors, printers, to televisions, MP3 players, cellphones, and microwaves.

Not everything is proper for the recycling truck, however. "We don't want light bulbs or batteries," says Susan Walia, the store's business manager.

Items can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the store, 1500 Castro St. at 25th Street. A national firm, All Green Electronics Recycling, will be on hand to collect and dispose of the materials.

For more information, contact Walia at 826-6678.

—Corrie M. Anders

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SHORT TAKES

Hear 1906 Quake Experts

If the 25th anniversary of Loma Prieta piqued your interest in earthquakes, this month's meeting of the San Francisco History Association will be right up your alley.

"1906 Revisited: An Evening with Gladys Hansen" will start at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at St. Philip Church at 725 Diamond St.

As San Francisco's archivist emeritus, Hansen has spent her career researching the 1906 earthquake and fire and sharing the information in books and through the Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco (sfmuseum.org), which she founded.

While the official death count of the disaster has stood at 478 since 1907, historians say that number fails to include Chinatown residents, visitors to the city, many immigrants, and poor people. Hansen has been collecting the names of people who perished uncounted since the 1960s and has recorded more than 3,400.

Her books include *Denial of Disaster* and *San Francisco Almanac*. With Richard Hansen, she co-authored *1906 San Francisco Earthquake*. Also with Richard Hansen and William Blaisdell, she co-authored the ebook *Earthquake, Fire & Epidemic: Personal Accounts of the 1906 Disaster*.

She will be joined at the meeting by fellow guest speaker Richard Hansen.

The doors open for a social hour at 7 p.m., during which time attendees can enjoy light refreshments and peruse the

group's bookstore. Participants also can buy raffle tickets to support the association's research gift program and get a chance to win a piece of San Francisco memorabilia.

Admission is \$5 for non-members.

For more information, contact program coordinator Kit Haskell at kit@sanfranciscohistory.org.

—Suzanne Herel

Waiting for the Ministry

The rallying rays of the autumn sun are streaming through the newly secured stained-glass window at the Noe Valley Ministry, on Sanchez Street. But other aspects of the historic building's long restoration project have yet to be completed, forcing a delay in the planned November reopening, including a SF Live Arts appearance by the neighborhood's celebrated shadow puppet master, Larry Reed.

Reed's Nov. 22 performance of *Wayang Bali: Balinese Shadow Play* has been relocated to St. Cyprian's Church, on Turk Street, and his Ministry date has been reset to Spring 2015.

Church spokesperson Karen Heather reports that installation of an elevator is the project primarily responsible for the delayed reopening of the building, with official approval of the elevator and a final fire inspection to follow.

"They've done an amazing job of staying within the budget" of \$3.5 million, says Heather of the renovation.

She also looks forward to the fine-tuning of acoustics within the enlarged upstairs chapel and performance space, in anticipation of Noe Valley Chamber Music's return concert on Jan. 25, featuring classical artists Emil Miland and Jake Heggie, and others.

—Jeff Kaliss

Food for Thought

Omnivore Books on Food, located at 3385A Cesar Chavez St. just east of Church Street in Noe Valley, hosts book events and tastings every month, but in November what they're doing takes the cake. Twelve food book events will be held at the store and three off site.

Christopher Kostow, the critically acclaimed chef at The Restaurant at Meadowood in St. Helena, will discuss his approach toward food as presented in his book *A New Napa Cuisine* Monday, Nov. 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Omnivore. Chef Kostow is one of the youngest chefs ever to receive three stars from the Michelin Guide.

If you're a Food Network addict, be sure to go to Omnivore Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. Journalist Allen Salkin will discuss the big personalities, high drama, and behind-the-scenes story of the foodies' favorite addiction, detailed in his new book *From Scratch: The Uncensored History of the Food Network*.

Other events at the bookstore will spotlight the cuisines of Burma, Mexico, and the American South, vegetarian feasting Mediterranean-style, preserving fruits and vegetables, baking goodies, and guides to sherry and alcohol in general.

All events at the store are free. Off-site events are not. Check the website—omnivorebooks.com—for information on all 15. Or call the store at 282-4712.

—Richard May

December Nights in Noe

Two early December events in Noe Valley happen at night. One is the fourth annual Holiday Wine Walk, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 8 p.m., rain or shine. The second is the Holiday Hayride Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 to 8 p.m.

During the Holiday Wine Walk, stores

along 24th Street from Chattanooga to Diamond will host wineries pouring tastes of their products. Get your ticket online or at the event, receive your wine glass and map, and off you go.

Buy tickets ahead for \$20 each at Steven Restivo Event Services www.sreproductions.com or for \$25 during the Wine Walk. Ticket kiosks will be outside Walgreens and at the parking lot (and future Noe Valley Town Square) on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. It's cash only day-of.

A motorized cable car will troll 24th Street to speed Wine Walkers to their next "winery" or pick up revelers of any sort. The cable car is free.

The Holiday Hayride on Dec. 6 will feature a horse-drawn carriage lit by colorful lights. The carriage will cruise 24th Street from Sanchez to Castro Street, make the turn onto Castro, and continue on to Jersey. The ride is free.

Twenty-fourth Street will also be bright. Merchants and professionals will string lights around the trees and poles in front of their shops and offices during December.

Both nighttime events are sponsored by the Noe Valley Association and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. They are part of the groups' annual 24 HoliDAYS on 24th Street. For information, see www.24on24th.com.

—Richard May

CORRECTION

In the Short Takes column in the October 2014 issue, we provided an incorrect date in an article, "Forum on Sodas and Speculators," about the next meeting of the group Upper Noe Neighbors. The date should have been listed as Oct. 8 and not Oct. 18. We apologize for the error.

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Here are a few of Jessica's listings and recent sales...

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<p>\$1,420,000 SOLD</p>	<p>\$1,688,888 SOLD</p>	<p>\$1,405,000 SOLD 170 Fairmount</p>		
<p>\$1,170,500 SOLD</p>	<p>\$1,200,000 SOLD</p>			

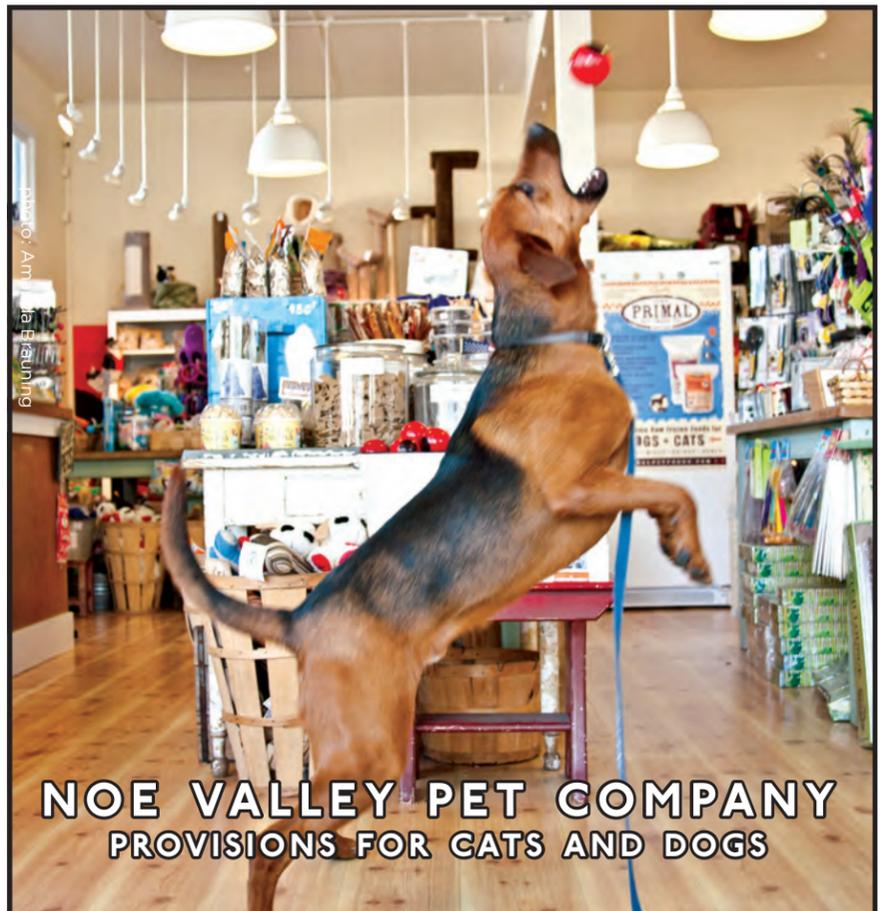
Visit www.JessicaBranson.com to view more properties sold by Jessica, SF sales stats, and get her insider's take on the market.

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On 24th Street

Asked on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014, at the corner of 24th and Church and in front of Whole Foods Market:

What is your favorite Muni line and why?



Frances Evens, Elizabeth Street: I like the J-Church because it's right by my house. I like the crowds and the people on the J. It makes me feel like part of the community.



Christina Carrigan, 24th Street: The only one I take is the 24, because I do yoga at the Iyengar Yoga Institute on Sutter and it takes me right there. And it is convenient, comes right to Noe Valley.



Dominic Wall, Sanchez Street: I like the M [Ocean View] because it took me to school, San Francisco State. And it goes all the way downtown.



Ralph Avendano, 24th Street: I like to take the J-Church because it's faster than using BART. I can go downtown and to Safeway and back home.



Sophi Scarneman, Cesar Chavez Street: I have a car so I don't take the bus too often, but when I do, I take the J or the 24-Divisadero. The J is nice because it's central, takes me to the Mission and the financial district for fun days. The 24 is convenient for visiting friends in the Castro when I don't want to brave the hill. I also take it to go to concerts in the Fillmore.



Harry Bialer, Church Street: The J-Church is good because it goes right by my house and it's on time, mostly.

Interviews and images by Shayna Rubin

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Cleaning Professional: 27 years experience. Apartments, homes or offices and buildings. Roger Miller, 415-794-4411. References.



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Bethany Holiday Fair in Noe Valley on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Clipper and Sanchez streets. Local artists. Creative re-use crafters. Alternative gifts. Bethany Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St. 415-647-8393.

Noe Valley Guest Quarters: Quiet, private, and clean. Sleeps two. Private entrance, firm queen bed, bath with shower, satellite television, wireless, efficiency kitchen for light housekeeping. Walk to 24th Street, Muni, and BART. \$100 per night. Three-night minimum. kchwch@gmail.com.

Going on Vacation? Pets staying behind? Thirsty plants need water? Vehicle idle? If you're away more than five days, rely on experienced, mature house sitter. Valley references, insured, no chore too small! Contact James: 650-342-6345.

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Progressive Woman: Late 80s, sharp mind, global outlook, wants to share friend time for documentary films, etc. Would share gas if you have car. Meg, 415-826-7365.

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Creative Cleaning: Home or apartment. Call Marlene Sherman at 415-375-2980.

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.

HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email.)

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 **December 2014 / January 2015** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of December. **The deadline for Class Ads is November 15.**

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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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* column profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a health center that opened its doors on Castro Street in July.

BLUE OVA HEALTH
 1414 Castro St. at Jersey Street
 info@blueova.com
 www.blueova.com

Western medicine has a new partner in treating fertility—the ancient art of acupuncture. Blue Ova Health, a health and wellness center in Noe Valley, offers acupuncture and other holistic treatments to promote fertility, pregnancy, and post-natal women’s health. In addition, the center offers massage, nutrition, mind-body coaching, lactation counseling, and doula services.

Co-owners Robin Sheared and Shannon Kidwell, who also are sisters, have created a spa-like setting in the former site of Fima Photography, replacing the carpeting with warm brown laminate flooring, recessed lighting, and cozy patient rooms with massage tables, pillows, and blankets. Soothing instrumental music greets clients in the open reception area, which is being re-furnished and decorated as well. There are two massage therapists on staff, along with a mind-body coach, a holistic health coach, a lactation consultant, and a doula.

Sheared and Kidwell say studies have found that using acupuncture and herbs for fertility treatments increases blood flow to the ovaries and uterus, balances hormones, and stimulates egg production. It also may relieve stress and help with in-



Blue Ova Health founders and sisters Shannon Kidwell and Robin Sheared (right) focus on integrative health, combining acupuncture, herbology, therapeutic massage, and nutritional counseling. Their primary field is fertility and pregnancy. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

somnia, both of which can interfere with getting pregnant.

“We often treat women who have used IVF [in vitro fertilization], and they are looking for something to help implement the success of their treatment,” says Kidwell, Blue Ova’s business director. “But

we also treat women looking to conceive without Western medical intervention, and we help them prepare to get pregnant with acupuncture and herbs that help them slow down and calm down.”

The sisters grew up in Mendocino, where their mother, a Waldorf School

teacher, took them to regular appointments with acupuncturists, naturopaths, and other natural healers. Both learned the importance of holistic health. Sheared went on to study traditional Chinese medicine and train with Dr. Lifang Liang and Jennifer Moss in acupuncture and women’s fertility. Kidwell turned toward the business side of global health, received her MBA from University of Exeter, and later led health and clean-energy ventures in Haiti and sub-Saharan Africa.

Sheared opened her first acupuncture practice, Essential Wellness, in the lower Haight in 2009. She focused on treating fertility and pregnancy as well as other common conditions, from allergies and anxiety to gastrointestinal disorders and sports injuries. As her practice grew, she decided to expand to create a center where patients could receive multiple services.

“We saw many women running around town to different appointments for acupuncture, massage, and other therapies. We wanted to create a center where they could receive all of these services in one place,” says Kidwell.

She points out that while Blue Ova focuses on natural reproductive wellness, it also treats a variety of complaints from both men and women, including allergies, anxiety, migraines, and muscular-skeletal aches and pains.

While many patients followed Sheared to Blue Ova, where she serves as clinical director, the center also gets referrals from medical doctors and hospitals and is part of a large practitioner referral group.

An initial consultation and treatment for acupuncture is \$150. Follow-up appointments are \$95. Each session lasts 45 minutes. For clients requesting multiple therapies, a variety of discount packages are available.

Blue Ova Health is open daily, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. —Pat Rose

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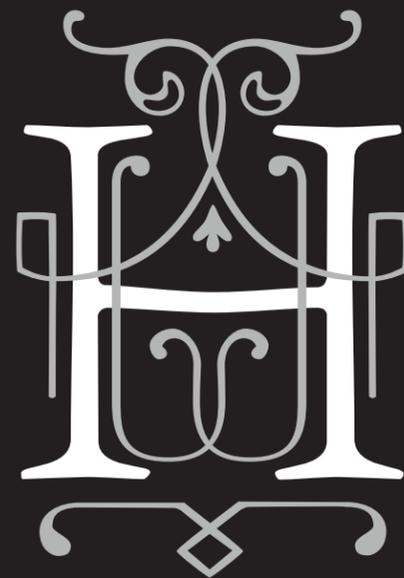
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NOVEMBER 2014

Nov. 1: Dorie Greenspan discusses *Baking Chez Moi: RECIPES from My Paris Home to Your Home Anywhere*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 1: Celebrate Folio Books one year anniversary PARTY with a talk by Bill Yenne, brewed beer and snacks, French accordion music by Gary Breitbart, and a 20% discount on books. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Nov. 1 & 2: The 39th annual SF OPEN STUDIOS features Noe, the Mission, Glen Park, Castro, Bernal Heights, and Upper Market neighborhoods. 11 am-6 pm. artspan.org.

Nov. 1-15: The 12th annual ALTERED BARBIE exhibition ends with a closing party Nov. 15, 6-11 pm. Wed.-Sat., noon-7 pm, Sun., noon-5 pm. Shotwell 50 Studio, 50 Shotwell. alteredbarbie.com.

Nov. 1-16: PHOTOGRAPHER and Voice contributor Beverly Tharp exhibits her evolving Lotus project at the Bernal Artists 2014 show at Inclusions Gallery. Reception Nov. 8, 5-7 pm; Wed.-Sat., noon-7 pm; Sun., noon-6 pm. 627 Cortland. 817-1493; inclusionsgallery.com.

Nov. 1-16: Fifty24SF Gallery exhibits a solo show by JAPANESE ILLUSTRATOR and calligraphist Usugrow, "Inkflow." Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 218 Fillmore. 728-8344.

Nov. 1-23: Creativity Explored exhibits "StereoTYPE," a group art show about alphabets as art objects. Mon & Tues., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

Nov. 1-29: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 1-29: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon and 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

Nov. 1-29: Voice photographer NAJIB

JOE HAKIM exhibits his work in "Home Away from Home: Little Palestine by the Bay." Tues.-Thurs., 10 am-10 pm, Fri.-Sun. 10 am-8 pm. Rayko Photo Center, 428 Third. rayko.com.

Nov. 1-29: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 8 to 11 pm. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 1 & Dec. 6: The Noe Valley Library hosts the Noe Valley KNITTING CIRCLE on the first Saturday of the month. 10:30 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 2: MARCUS SAMUELSSON introduces *Marcus Off-Duty: The Recipes I Cook at Home*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 2-30: 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.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 2-30: The SF Museum and Historical Society gives Sunday tours of the OLD MINT at 1:30 and 3 pm. 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Nov. 3: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz reading from her new book, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. 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.

Nov. 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 4: There's an ELECTION going on; remember to vote today. 7 am-8 pm. Call the Department of Elections for information, 554-4386.

Nov. 4: Robert Carmack discusses *The BURMA COOKBOOK*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 4: "Write Now! @ Folio Books" is a monthly WORD JAM led by writer/editor Kathy Dalle-Molle; all levels welcome. 7-8:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; sign up at foliosf.com/events.

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

Nov. 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.

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

Nov. 4-25: 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.

Nov. 4 & Dec. 2: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

Nov. 5: LoveLocalSF, organized by SFGate.com and the mayor's office, celebrates San Francisco with local performances and promotions. See Cliché Noe Gifts, 4175 24th. Info:

sfgate.com/lovelocalsf/partnerfaq.

Nov. 5: Margarita Carrillo Arronte introduces *MEXICO: The Cookbook*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and Playtime on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

Nov. 5-26: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for little ones, Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Nov. 5-26: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Glen Park Rec Center, 70 Elk. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

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

Nov. 5 & Dec. 3: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBTHistory.org.

Nov. 5-Dec. 17: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

Nov. 6: Talia Baiocchi discusses *SHERRY: A Modern Guide to the Wine World's Best-Kept Secret*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 6-9: The SF DANCE Film Festival screens at the Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th. 844-567-3333; sfdancefilmfest.org.

Nov. 6 & 13: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 7: Egyptian BELLY DANCE ensembles Karavansaray Dance Company and Bal Anat perform at the

Rotunda Dance series at SF City Hall. Noon. dancersgroup.org.

Nov. 7: Soprano Jane Spencer-Mills performs at 7 pm CONCERT at Holy Innocents Church. 455 Fair Oaks. holynsf.org.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 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.

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

Nov. 8: Free ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is hosted by Castro Computer Services, with proceeds benefiting the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals; computers, cell phones, telephones, and microwaves accepted. 9 am-1 pm. 1500 Castro.

Nov. 8: Children over age 4 are invited to the Mission Branch Library to build Spaghetti and MARSHMALLOW TOWERS; all materials provided. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

Nov. 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.

Nov. 8: MUNI DIARIES bring spoken word to Elbo Room, from 7 to 9 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; elbo.com.

Nov. 9: The monthly PFLAG support group runs from 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflagstf@aol.com.

Nov. 9: Visit Folio Books for tea and a reading by historian Alexis Coe, author of *Alice + Freda Forever*. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Nov. 10: Christopher Kostow introduces *A New NAPA CUISINE*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

SAT NOV 1	DORIE GREENSPAN • BAKING CHEZ MOI • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • In <i>Baking Chez Moi</i> , Dorie explores the fascinating world of French desserts, bringing together a charmingly uncomplicated mix of contemporary recipes.
SUN NOV 2	MARCUS SAMUELSSON • MARCUS OFF-DUTY • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Marcus Samuelsson captivates food lovers with his brilliant culinary interpretations.
TUE NOV 4	ROBERT CARMACK • THE BURMA COOKBOOK • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Carmack and his partner Morrison Polkinghorne tour regularly to Southeast Asia, hosting culinary journeys through their company Globetrotting Gourmet.
WED NOV 5	MARGARITA CARRILLO ARRONTE • MEXICO: THE COOKBOOK. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • The first truly comprehensive bible of authentic Mexican home cooking, written by a living culinary legend.
THU NOV 6	TALIA BAIOCCHI • SHERRY • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • With a comprehensive yet accessible overview of the different styles of sherry, how they are made, and the people and places that produce it, <i>Sherry</i> demystifies what can be a confusing wine.
MON NOV 10	CHRISTOPHER KOSTOW • A NEW NAPA CUISINE • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Christopher Kostow is the critically acclaimed chef of The Restaurant at Meadowood in St. Helena, and the third youngest chef to ever receive three Michelin stars.
SAT NOV 15	CATHY BARROW • MRS. WHEELBARROW'S PRACTICAL PANTRY: RECIPES AND TECHNIQUES FOR YEAR-ROUND PRESERVING 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Food preserving expert Cathy Barrow presents a beautiful collection of essential preserving techniques.
SUN NOV 16	ROSE LEVY BERENBAUM • THE BAKING BIBLE • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Legendary baker Rose Levy Beranbaum is back, with all-new recipes for the best cakes, pies, tarts, cookies, candies, pastries, breads, and more.
WED NOV 19	ALLEN SALKIN • FROM SCRATCH: INSIDE THE FOOD NETWORK 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Big personalities, high drama—the extraordinary behind-the-scenes story of the Food Network.
THU NOV 20	ROD PHILLIPS • ALCOHOL: A HISTORY. 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE • Rod Phillips surveys a 9,000-year cultural and economic history, uncovering the tensions between alcoholic drinks as healthy staples of daily diets and as objects of social, political, and religious anxiety.
SAT NOV 22	AGLAIA KREMEZI • MEDITERRANEAN VEGETARIAN FEASTS 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Kremezi, who teaches Greek cooking to food lovers visiting the Greek isles, has gone back to her roots.

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CALENDAR

Nov. 11: Gary Kurutz discusses the SUTRO LIBRARY at the SF Museum and Historical Society. 7:30 pm. 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

Nov. 12: "The Big Build" features wooden blocks, Magna-Tiles, and Keva Contraption Marble Runs; ages 4 and up. 3:30-4:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 12: The Glen Park Library's monthly KNITTING CIRCLE continues from 4:30 to 6 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Nov. 12: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group hosts the second half of the discussion of Dostoevsky's short story *Notes from the Underground*. 6:15-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

Nov. 12 & 19; Dec. 3: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to a calm canine named Oliver; ages 4 to 7, but older welcome. 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, I Jose Sarría Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

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

Nov. 13: St. James School hosts a Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE, beginning at 6:30 pm. 321 Fair Oaks. 647-8972; stjamesf.org.

Nov. 14: The Noe Valley Library hosts a screening of the 1982 FILM Cannery Row, based on the novel by John Steinbeck. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 14: Omnivore Books hosts "rock star of Southern heritage cooking" SEAN BROCK, author of *Heritage*, in conversation with Daniel Patterson. 6:30-7:30 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 14: The Alvarado PTA Technology Committee hosts the Great Alvarado Beerfest fundraiser, with food provided by John Lombardo, former chef at Gary Danko. 7-10 p.m., 1133 Douglass St. 695-5695.

Nov. 14: TAIZE service at Holy Innocents Church is offered on the 2nd Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm.

455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

Nov. 14-16: *Lost and Found*, A MUSICAL PIRATE Adventure, performs at St. Aidan's Church. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. 101 Gold Mine Drive, 285-9540, ext. 3; saintaidan.org.

Nov. 15: OPERA for the People discusses *The Coronation of Poppea* by Claudio Monteverdi. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.



Voice photographer Beverly Sharp shows her Lotus project starting Nov. 8 at Inclusions Gallery, 627 Cortland St. 817-1493; inclusionsgallery.com

Nov. 15: Cathy Barrow discusses *Mrs. Wheelbarrow's Practical Pantry: Recipes and Techniques for Year-Round PRESERVING*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 16: Rose Levy Berenbaum introduces *The BAKING BIBLE*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 16: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents the Mobius Trio performing classical guitars works. 4 pm concert; 3:15 pm pre-concert talk. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell. 648-5236; nvcm.org.

Nov. 16 & 20: BALANCED VIEW offers open meetings, 5:30 pm with a 6:45 pm dinner on Nov. 16, and 6:30 pm followed by a 7:30 pm Clarity Meeting on Nov. 20. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. balancedview.org.

Nov. 17: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts authors Terry Karl and Rebecca

Gorgon discussing human rights. 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.

Nov. 18: The Noe Valley Library hosts a drop-in eREADER CLASS. 10:30-11:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 19: Allen Salkin discusses *From Scratch: Inside the FOOD NETWORK*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 19: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group reads *Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood. 7 to 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 20: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

Nov. 20: Rod Phillips introduces *ALCOHOL: A History*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 21: The BOOKWORMS CLUB for ages 8 to 12 features a chat with Ian Lender, author of *The Stratford Zoo Midnight Revue* Presents Macbeth. 6-7:30 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; RSVP to media@foliosf.com.

Nov. 21 & 22: Liz Palacios shows her JEWELRY in a trunk show at Successories at the Button Box. Fri., 11 am-7 pm; Sat., noon-5 pm. 3904 24th. 642-4006; successories.weebly.com.

Nov. 22: The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts "HEALTHY EATING: Making Smarter Choices," a presentation by dietitian/nutritionist Gretchen Zimmerman. 10 am-noon. Main Library, Hispanic Room, lower level. 989-4422; owlsf.org.

Nov. 22: Aglaia Kremezis discusses *Mediterranean VEGETARIAN Feasts*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712;

omnivorebooks.com.

Nov. 22: The Glen Park Library screens the 1941 HUMPHREY BOGART film, *The Maltese Falcon*. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

Nov. 22: ShadowLight Theater presents a Balinese SHADOW PUPPET play, with music by Gamelan Sekar Jaya, at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Nov. 23: LeUyen Pham, author of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, leads a storytime and ornament-making workshop for ages 4 to 8. 4 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Nov. 23-Jan. 8, 2015: The annual HOLIDAY SHOW at Ruby's Clay Studio features handmade ceramic art by 25 local artists. 10 am-7 pm. 552A Noe. 558-9819; rubysclaystudio.org.

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

Nov. 25: Ruthanne Lum McCunn reads from *Chinese Yankee* at the Main Library. 6:30 pm. Latino Hispanic Community Room, 100 Larkin. sfpl.org.

Nov. 25: Gladys and Richard Hansen discuss the 1906 EARTHQUAKE at a meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

Nov. 26: The Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals Association meeting begins at 9 am. Bank of America, 4089 24th. noevalleymerchants.com.

Nov. 29: SHOP SMALL Saturday is a nationwide day encouraging support for small local businesses; Cliché Noe Gifts will be among the participants. For info: facebook.com/smallbusinessaturday.

Dec. 1: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a Pop Up Night with Andrew McIntyre, Judy Sender, Ramon Sender, Ruthie, Bill, and more. 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.

Dec. 1: Sally Love Saunders reads her POETRY at Folio Books' Open Mike night. 7 pm. 3957 24th, 821-3477.

Dec. 2: Author Joshua Davis introduces *Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream* at a 7 pm BOOK LAUNCH PARTY. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

Dec. 4: The fourth annual Holiday WINE WALK features tastings along 24th Street, and a motorized cable car running between venues. 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond. For tickets: sresproductions.com.

Dec. 6: The free Noe Valley Holiday HAYRIDE features a horse-drawn carriage traveling 24th Street from Sanchez to Castro, with the turnaround at Jersey. 24on24.com.

Dec. 7: The Noe Valley HUM, based on Bonnie Barnett's 1981 Tunnel Hum Project, needs participants to walk around the Noe Valley Ministry humming to a basic tone that's also being played on various musical instruments. 3 pm. 1021 Sanchez. RamonSender@comcast.net.

DECEMBER AT LAST

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

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Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting 3.0 Units

M W F 10:10 - 11:00 AM BNGL 715 Gonzales

R 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 217 Rochmis

Jour 22: Feature Writing 3.0 Units

T 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 217 Rochmis

Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing 3.0 Units

W 06:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/Rm 218 Rochmis

Jour 25: Editorial Management 3.0 Units

MWF 12:10 - 1:00 PM BNGL 615 Gonzales

Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Rel 3.0 Units

TR 11:10 - 12:25 PM HC 202 Graham

Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production 3.0 Units

T 06:30 - 08:45 PM Mission/RM 218 Graham

T TBA Mission/RM 218 Gonzales

Jour 31: Internship Experience 2.0 Units

PREREQ: JOUR 24 HOURS ARR Gonzales

Jour 36: Advanced Reporting 3.0 Units

M 6:30 - 9:20 PM Mission/RM 217 Gonzales

Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism 3.0 Units

T R 9:40 - 10:55 AM BNGL 615 Lifland

W 6:30 - 09:20 PM Mission/RM 217 Lifland

Questions? Call Juan Gonzales at 415-239-3446

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On the Diamond at Upper Noe Rec Center

Upper Noe Rec Center's second fall session continues this month, with dozens of classes and activities in Noe Valley's jewel of a park. You can find basketball, tennis, and flag football, and free family Zumba classes, on Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Many classes are open to drop-in guests, including yoga, Pilates, Boot Camp, Core Balance and Stability, Baking, and Baby and Me. Fees vary, depending on the class. You can join volleyball on Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and women's futsal (indoor soccer) on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., for \$5 a session.

Itching to play baseball? Signups begin Nov. 15 to play this spring in the San Francisco Youth Baseball League. Go to <http://sfybl.com/> for the scoop.

Rec and Park's registration for winter session classes begins Dec. 13. To register, go to www.sfreconline.org or drop by the rec center, at 295 Day St. For more information, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com or call 415-970-8061.

The Upper Noe Recreation Center is open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gates of the park—and of Joby's Dog Run at the Church Street end—are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER FALL II CLASSES 2014

MONDAY	
Tennis (7-12 yrs old)	Mon., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	
Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs old)	Tues., 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Simply Fun (10 mos - 3 yrs old)	Tues., 10-11:30 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs old)	Tues., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Basketball Open Gym	Tues., noon-8:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Tues., 1-3:30 p.m.
Tennis (8-13 yrs old)	Tues., 3:30-5 p.m.
Combat Athletics, Int. (8-16 yrs old)	Tues., 4-5:30 p.m.
Zumba Dance (free for all ages)	Tues., 5:15-6:15 p.m.
Tennis (adult intermediate)	Tues., 6-7 p.m.
Yoga (adult)	Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Boot Camp (14+)	Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	
Baby and Me (18 mos - 3 yrs old)	Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Tot Tennis (4-5 yrs old)	Wed., 10:30-11 a.m.
Pilates (adult)	Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Basketball Open Gym	Wed., noon-2:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Wed., 1-2:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball (5-9 yrs old)	Wed., 3-4:30 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs old)	Wed., 3 p.m., 4:15 p.m.
Flag Football (co-ed, 8-9 yrs old)	Wed., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball (10-14 yrs old)	Wed., 4:30-6 p.m.
Flag Football (co-ed, 10-11 yrs old)	Wed., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (5-6 yrs old)	Wed., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Flag Football (co-ed, 12-13 yrs old)	Wed., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Food in Jars (adult)	Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tennis (adult beginner/intermediate)	Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.
Volleyball Open Gym	Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY	
Simply Fun (10 mos - 3 yrs old)	Tues., 10-11:30 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs old)	Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Basketball Open Gym	Thurs., noon-3:30 p.m., 6-8:30 p.m.
Argentine Tango, beginner (55+)	Thurs., 1-4 p.m.
Mini Players Acting (5-6 yrs old)	Thurs., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Yoga (adult)	Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Home Cooking (adult)	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Core Stability and Balance (adult)	Thurs., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
FRIDAY	
Baby and Me (18 mos - 3 yrs old)	Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates (adult)	Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Basketball Open Gym	Fri., noon-6 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Fri., 1-3 p.m.
So You Think You Can Act (7-11 yrs old)	Fri., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Combat Athletics (8-16 yrs old)	Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
Skateboarding (6-13 yrs old)	Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
Women's Indoor Soccer open gym	Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Future Chefs (9-13 yrs old)	Fri., 6:30-8 p.m.
SATURDAY	
Boot Camp (14+)	Sat., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
The Art of Baking Bread (adult)	Sat., 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tot Soccer (3-4 yrs old)	Sat., 10-11 a.m.
Basketball Open Gym	Sat., 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Sat., 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Tennis (5-8 yrs old)	Sat., 1-2 p.m.
SUNDAY	
Tennis (8-11 yrs old)	Sun., noon-1 p.m.



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Notary Public Service

and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Noe Strolls

By Mazook

TEMPS PERDU: As I was walking down Noe Street to Downtown Noe Valley for the Harvest Festival Oct. 18, I encountered what I would call “basement window dressings” in several of the residences on the east side from 23rd Street all the way down to 24th. I have walked that route many times before, but never stopped to look. The windows were filled with remnants of bygone days—little cars, dolls, family pictures, and other memorabilia. I got so wrapped up in the basement windows I nearly forgot where I was going.

I almost stopped at the corner for some eats at Pasta Pomodoro, but I had to move on down 24th Street to the fair, and the café’s street tables were taken anyway.

But thank you, all you Noe Street neighbors, who make that stroll so pleasant. Wonderfully interesting mementos.



PASTA LA VISTA: Now, back to reality. Pasta Pomodoro, at 24th and Noe streets, closed its doors on Wednesday, Oct. 29, with a notice posted on the door and little warning to the patrons of the popular eatery, in business since 1997. By the time you read this, all of the furniture, fixtures, and noodles will have been removed from the premises.

“We feel bad to be closing, because we

have so many loyal customers in this wonderful neighborhood, but our lease ended and the landlord has to make seismic upgrades to the building, so we had to [vacate],” said the restaurant’s general manager, Melvin Vasquez.

Added Vasquez, “We are sad to leave because this was one of the most popular locations of the 19 [restaurant locations] in our group, and we had so many loyal customers, whom we thank.” For you folks, the only remaining Pasta Pomodoro in the city is in Laurel Village, on California near Spruce.

The building owner, John Gianaras, confirmed that the building would be going through a seismic upgrade starting this month. He anticipates completing the project early next year. And after that? “It will reopen as a restaurant with a new operator, but I can’t say any more about that now,” said Gianaras. Panos’? I asked. “No,” he replied, laughing.

Gianaras and his wife Vi were the restaurateurs long before Pasta Pomodoro. In 1978, they launched Panos’ and named it after his father, Panos Gianaras. Known for its Greek cuisine, Panos’ thrived for almost 20 years. When it closed, Pasta Pomodoro, owned by another food trendsetter, Adriano Paganini, filled the space. Paganini had seven PP restaurants at the time, and built up to 30 locations in northern and southern California, but then sold the chain to its current owners about five years ago. For more on Panos’ and Pasta Pomodoro’s history, click on Back Issues at the *Voice* website and search the restaurant names.

Vasquez assures us that the employees at the Noe Valley Pasta Pomodoro won’t be losing their jobs. “They will be moving to one of our other locations,” he said.



BLISSSED OUT: Quite a stir was created

in Downtown Noe Valley on Oct. 10, when a large, official-looking Alcohol Beverage Control application for a change of ownership was posted on the front of Bliss Bar, at 4026 24th St. The sign said the new applicant was a business called “NeighborHooters,” owned by a corporation called “Hooters, LCC.” What? A Hooters in Noe Valley?

The next few days, that question was repeated over and over again to Ross Levy, a local building contractor who, because he is doing a remodel of the space, had his own business sign also posted on the Bliss storefront. He said he received “many phone calls” from friends asking him what was happening and when. One of the calls was from the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, “who was investigating the matter and would be coming out to physically remove the sign themselves,” said Levy. Though the ABC probably knew it was a prank, “they were not laughing.”

Which brings us to the question of what is going to happen there. Levy explains that there will be a new bar and restaurant, which will be “family-friendly with food and cocktails, but first we will be expanding the commercial space in the back, creating a space” similar to what was done at Patxi’s, he said.



BLISS FULL: While Bliss Bar, which closed after a fire the morning of Feb. 4, 2013, was a very popular place, a reopening by Bliss owner Pierre Letheule is not to be. Levy said he’s been involved on behalf of the property owner, sorting out insurance claims, and he now plans to move forward with construction. Levy confirmed that during the bar’s long hiatus Letheule’s lease ran out and that the bar owner sold the ABC license and everyone moved on.

But he was unable to say for sure when the new restaurant would open. Keep your eyes peeled for legit ABC signs.



STALEY HOMES OF NOE: In the October Rumors, I wrote about a stroll I took to the top of “Battle Mountain.” I described 801 Sanchez St., the house owned by Jean K. Tinsley, a famous aviatrix who lives in Atherton, Calif. I also wrote that “reliable sources” had told me that Tinsley’s house, which appeared to have been unoccupied for about 40 years, might have been sold, for \$10 million.

In early October I walked by her house again, and saw Christmas lights adorning the top of the dwelling which sits behind big walls.

And then, on another day, a weekday afternoon, I saw something I’d never seen before—the front door was ajar. As I cautiously ventured through the portal, *Noe Valley Voice* press card in hand, I gave my standard salutation, “Hello, hello, hello.”

I had two questions to ask anyone I might encounter. Was it true the house was sold? And if so, to whom?

As I kept walking, a voice finally answered. There, on an eastward-looking outside deck stood Roger Foster, who some of you might know is a longtime San Francisco building contractor. He said he was doing some repairs on the home’s front door and entranceway.

I told him who I was and asked my question about the sale. His answer was: “No. That rumor is not true, as far as I know, and I have done many improvements to this house over the last 15 years. Ms. Tinsley had planned to move back to this house from her home in Atherton, and it is ready for occupancy,” he explained, “but a recent stroke has slowed down that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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	R	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 217	Rochmis
Jour 22: Feature Writing 3.0 Units	T	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 217	Rochmis
Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing 3.0 Units	W	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 218	Rochmis
Jour 25: Editorial Management 3.0 Units	MWF	12:10 - 1:00 PM	BNGL 615	Gonzales
Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Rel 3.0 Units	TR	11:10 - 12:25 PM	HC 202	Graham
Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production 3.0 Units	T	06:30 - 08:45 PM	Mission/RM 218	Graham
	T	TBA	Mission/RM 218	Gonzales
Jour 31: Internship Experience 2.0 Units	PREREQ: JOUR 24	HOURS ARR		Gonzales
Jour 36: Advanced Reporting 3.0 Units	M	6:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/RM 217	Gonzales
Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism 3.0 Units	T R	9:40 - 10:55 AM	BNGL 615	Lifland
	W	6:30 - 09:20 PM	Mission/RM 217	Lifland

Questions? Call Juan Gonzales at 415-239-3446
www.ccsf.edu/schedule

RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

process.”

“As a matter of fact,” said Foster, “she stayed in this house earlier this month, for the first time in 35 years, and hopefully her visits will be more frequent. The last time she lived here was when her parents passed away [35 years ago].”

The house, after several expansions over the last 12 years, has four bedrooms and bathrooms, a living room, parlor, dining room with large kitchen, and a recreation room with a jukebox. There are several decks looking east, and a landscaped yard down the hill that has an “endless” swimming pool, the kind where a motor creates a current to swim against.

Foster dates the home’s construction back to the mid-1880s. “I think this was the first house up at the top of this hill, since when we were working in the basement we came upon timbers that had the date 1886 carved in each one of them.”

Foster also offered me a clue as to why someone would think the property had been sold. “Yeah, very recently,” he said, “we did receive a written offer that was dropped in the mailbox offering to buy this property right now for an all-cash price of \$11 million, which was interesting but totally unsolicited. The house is definitely not for sale,” said Foster.

A bit of history: Mayor James “Sunny Jim” Rolph built a house on this summit—directly across 21st Street from Tinsley’s—for his mistress in 1929. Also, the name Battle Mountain dates back to more than 120 years ago, when neighbors on the hill fought one another over the creation of what would become Liberty Street.

Reported in *The Morning Call* on Jan. 18, 1895: “The establishment of the grade on that small thoroughfare running from Valencia to Castro Street, between Twentieth and Twenty-first, has been a source of trouble to no less than four different Boards of Supervisors. After ten years of fighting, no change of grade has yet been found to satisfy the property-owners.... In consequence of the many fights between the property-owners, the hill on which it is situated has been designated ‘Battle Mountain.’”



RAISING THE BAR: A few changes are coming to the Peaks, says new owner Keli Leal, who was born and raised just up Castro Street from this very local and longstanding Noe Valley drinking establishment.

“Well,” says Leal, “the major change is that we are now in the process of cleaning the place up, after over 40 years of nothing being done.”

Leal has been a bartender at the Peaks for 16 years, and she officially took over the place last month.

Don’t look for any drastic moves, however. Noe Valley’s only public pool table will remain in place, she says. Along with the funky decor and neighborhood-bar atmosphere.

“We will be having a big Grand Opening party sometime in January,” says Leal, “which will be catered with some real good food.”

Going from the Peaks to Peekaboo-tique, owner Michael Stanton has confirmed that he has sold the business and is waiting for the transfer to happen “sometime soon.” He has owned the kids’ store for the past nine of its 27 years at that location.

Stanton didn’t want to talk about any further details “until the deal closes,” he

said. I sure hope the secondhand clothing stays. Noe Valley parents depend on it.

There are some changes down on Church Street. Many in the neighborhood are sorry to learn that the popular plant emporium, Independent Nature, is vacating the space it has occupied for five years (1504 Church). Owner Susan Prentice says she has no plans to continue her retail business anywhere else at this time, but she will continue with her separate gardening landscaping services.



SHORT SHRIFTS: Across Church Street from Independent Nature, the new Tacolicious has added the word “Offices” to its name, and posted a polite note at the front door that says, “Sorry, no tacos here, just the people behind them.” Says Tacolicious’ Julia Sensenig, “Many people were opening the doors looking inside for tacos, so we had to put up the sign.”

On Wednesday night, Oct. 22, police closed off the streets around the 1100 block of Sanchez Street while the bomb squad came out to investigate a call from a local contractor who’d found some suspicious “ordnance” in a basement. According to a report the next day by Hannah Albarazi of Bay City News, the police department’s explosive disposal experts “determined the devices to be [inert] training grenades.” Whew.



NOEWEEN: I hope you took the opportunity to view this year’s Downtown Noe Valley Halloween costume parade, which traditionally starts in the afternoon with toddlers and strollers, then evolves into a mass of bigger kids going from store to store to fill their bags with treats.

According to Mardie Vandervort at the One Stop Party Shop (28th and Church),

the costumes most in demand this year were “any character in *Frozen*” and the *Maleficent* Dragon Hoodie with horns. “We also have received many requests for the hazmat suits worn to protect people from Ebola. But I’m boycotting them because I don’t think it’s right to make fun of that tragedy.” Good.

Vandervort also said business was up at her store this year over last Halloween, “and a lot of customers told me that they were happy to support their neighborhood business.”



THAT’S ALL, YOU ALL. Make sure you vote on Nov. 4, and remember to stop and observe Armistice Day on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The first was Nov. 11, 1918, which marked the end of WWI, “the war to end all wars.” Ironically, we are still fighting that war today.

Have a happy Turkey Day, and we’ll be back in December with our gala Christmas column. ■



Photo by Art Bodner

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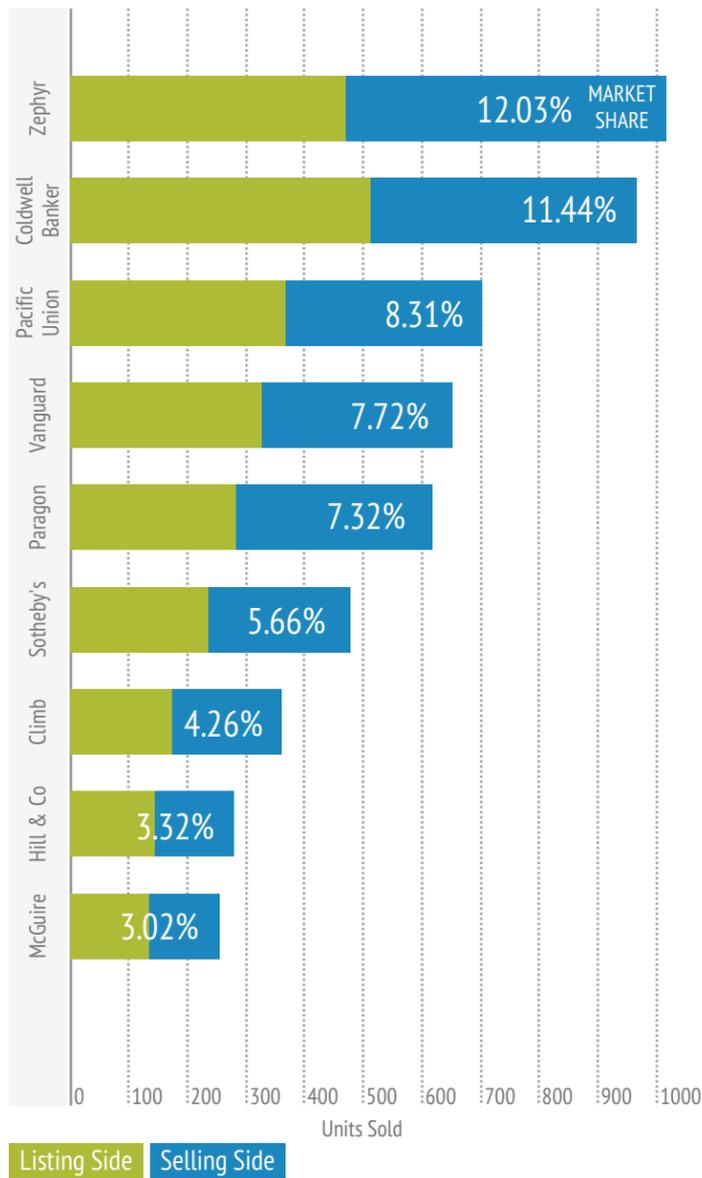
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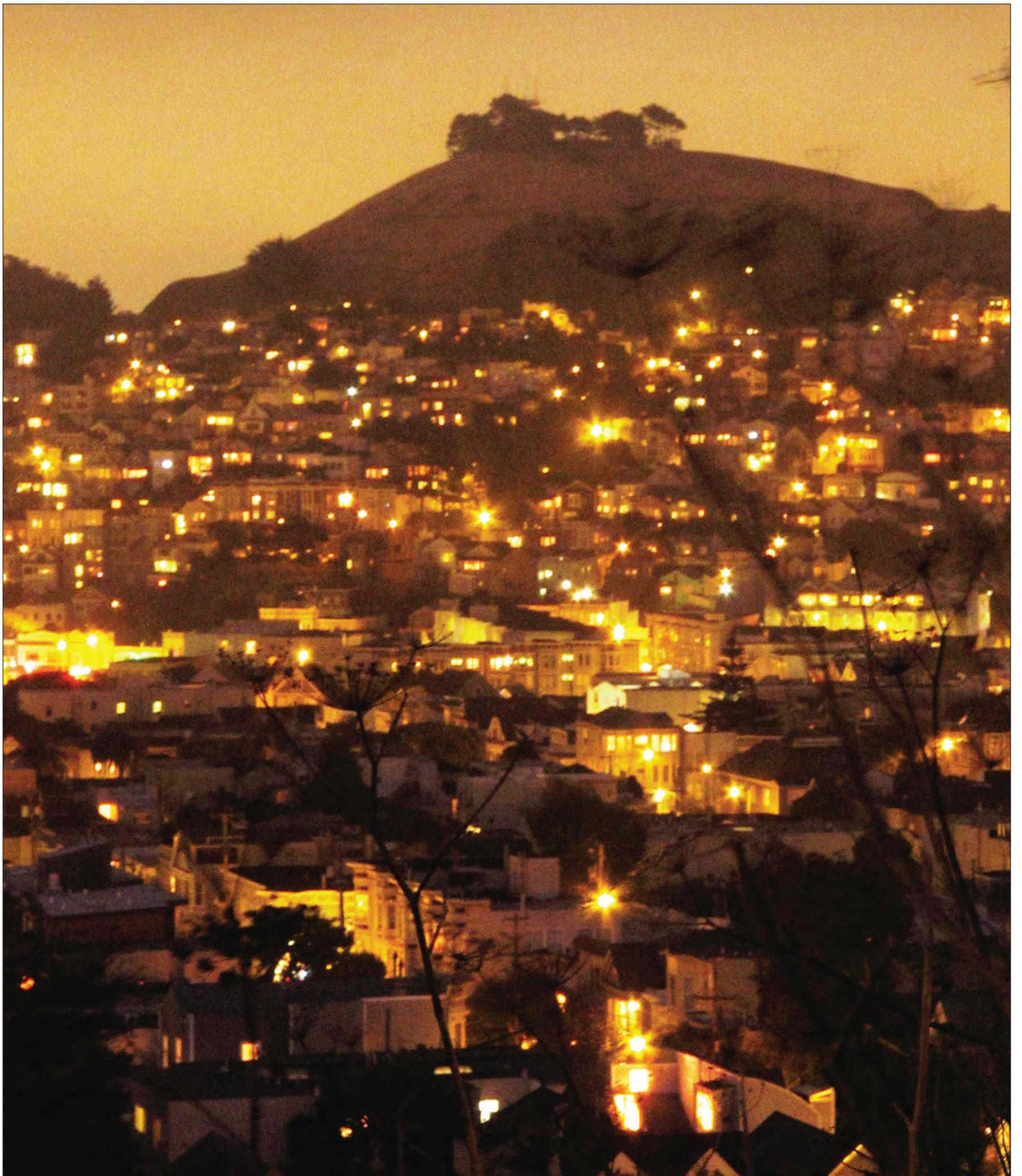
Sam's Got Good News!

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Saying Goodnight to Bernal Hill. Our neighbor neighborhood to the east ends the day with a show of golden light.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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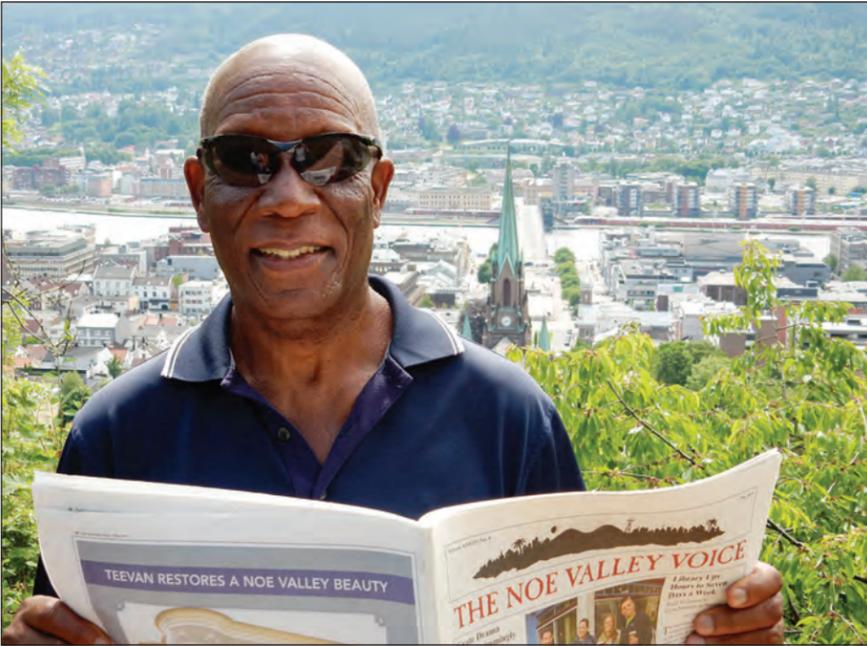
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Ramblin' and Readin'

Our latest selection of *Voice* reader travel news



That's not St. Paul's in the background, *Voice* senior editor **Corrie Anders** trekked to Oslo, Norway recently.



Dee Andrews, longtime denizen of 27th Street, displays the *Voice* for local Norseman (**Clayton Colbourne**) at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland.

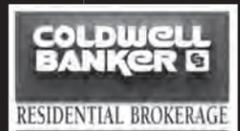


Geri Lafferty checks in from Castine, Maine with the training ship State of Maine in the background behind her.



Gwendolyn Carmen puts up with a hairdo adjustment from her energetic five-year-old friend **Caroline Usher** in Cluny, France.

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Al-Anon Noe Valley
 Contact: 834-9940
 Website: www.al-anonsf.org
 Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.
 St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street 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, 867-5774
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Website: www.dhcasf.org
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
 Email: info@doloresheights.org
 Website: www.doloresheights.org
 Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month (July 17 is next). Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

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.

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 Neighbors
 Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
 Mailing Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings revolve around activities such as the annual street fair held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill
 Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
 Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
 Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
 Website: 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@noevalleyrecenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyrecenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Juri Commoners
 Contact: Dave Schweisguth, MI7-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noonish. 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
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 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, 626-7500, 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.NoEvalleyMerchants.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.

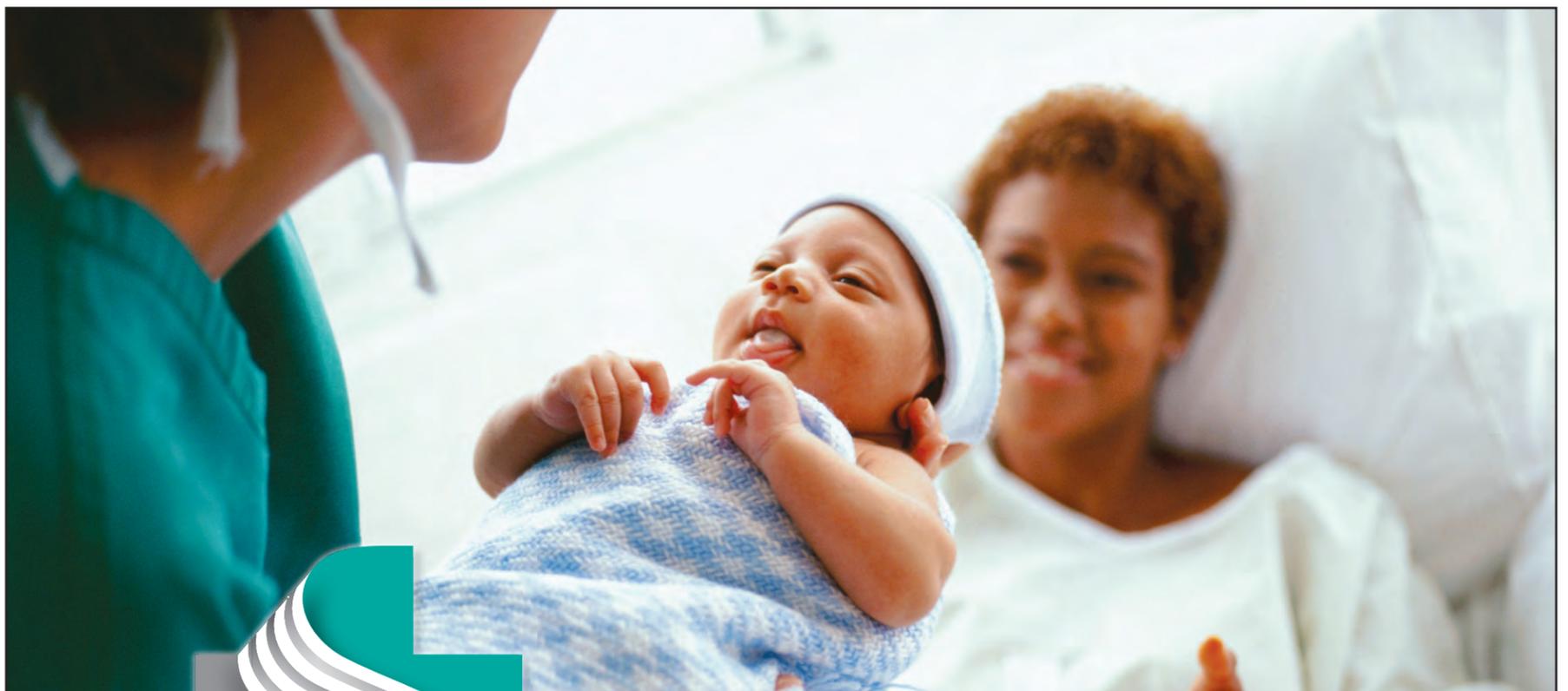
Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

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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Darin Holwitz 415.577.3348 Offered at \$1,079,000

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Barbara Callan 415.351.4688 or Robert Callan, Jr. 415.351.4645

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