



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Film Director Rushes in to Help Save Video Wave

Joe Talbot Screens *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* as Benefit for ‘Last Video Store’

By Corrie M. Anders

Joe Talbot, San Francisco’s new celebrity film director, was rushing to catch a bus in Noe Valley one day not long ago when he spotted a poster in a storefront window.

The poster, promoting Talbot’s award-winning movie, *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*, was propped up in a corner of Video Wave, the longtime video-rental store on 24th Street.

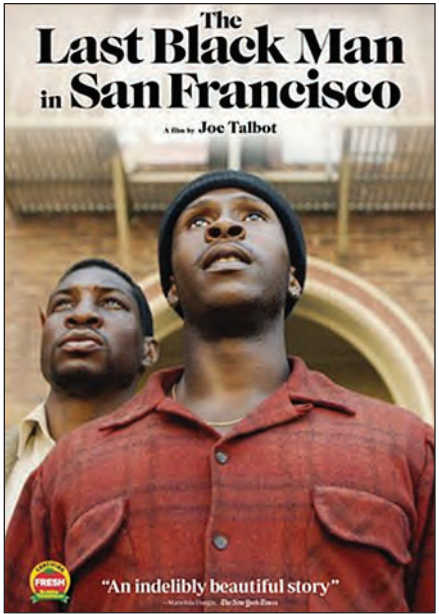
Talbot detoured inside and struck up a conversation with co-owner Colin Hutton, who confessed he was having trouble keeping the store going.

Faster than you can say, please silence your cell phones, Talbot and Hutton devised a plan to help Video Wave keep the lights on.

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, a benefit screening of *Last Black Man* will be held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Besides the movie, the 7 p.m. event will feature appearances by Talbot and co-writer and friend Jimmie Fails, who stars in the semi-autobiographical film, along with Jonathan Majors and Danny Glover. Also attending the event will be Eddie Muller, host of Turner Classic Movies’ Noir Alley series.

“We are calling it ‘Save the Last Video Store in San Francisco,’” said Noe Valley resident Richard Hildreth, who is coordinating the fundraiser.

Between 160 and 180 seats will be available, for a minimum donation of \$25. In addition, the film’s distributor, A24 Films, has donated 20 film posters that Talbot and Fails will sign and auction or raffle off.



**Screening Nov. 12** at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street, *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*, directed by Joe Talbot and starring Jimmie Fails and Jonathan Majors, is a hot ticket, available only through Video Wave’s GoFundMe page at [gofundme.com/ff/videowave](https://gofundme.com/ff/videowave).



**Backing Each Other Up.** Brother and sister Cian and Camille give their views on growing up as Noe Kids in the column by Katie Burke on page 16. Photo by Art Bodner

Tickets are available only through one source: Video Wave’s GoFundMe page at [gofundme.com/ff/videowave](https://gofundme.com/ff/videowave). So run, don’t walk.

The movie was released in June and

won Talbot—in his debut effort—the Best Director award at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. The film explores a young

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Protest Shuts Down Whole Foods Market and Much of Downtown Noe

Police Forced to Close Block While Animal Rights Group Takes Over

By Tom Ruiz

On the morning of Monday, Sept. 30, 24th Street shoppers and pedestrians encountered a no-go zone between Sanchez and Noe streets being enforced by San Francisco Police with yellow caution tape stretched across the intersections at both ends of the block.

A crowd of 75 to 100 protesters from the animal rights group Direct Action Everywhere (DxE) had descended on Whole Foods Market at 3950 24th St. to protest the store’s claim that animals processed for its product sales were treated humanely.

A few protesters clambered onto the roof and displayed a giant cardboard cutout of the face of Amazon CEO Jeff

Bezos, with a bubble above it saying, “I profit from criminal animal abuse.”

Store manager Melanie Holt said other protesters came inside the store and held a “teach-in” about the wrongs they believed the company had committed in its treatment of animals.

Still other protesters locked arms to block the main entrance, some chaining themselves together, while others superglued themselves at a second entrance to prevent the flow of customers, causing management to suspend operations and call police.

A slew of police cars and officers massed in the parking lot to protect the store and monitor activities on the street. A simultaneous protest was held at Amazon’s office on Sansome Street, where several activists handcuffed themselves together including former *Baywatch*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## No Haven for Electric Cars in Noe Valley

The Only Charging Station in Our Neighborhood Is Sometimes Off Line

By Matthew S. Bajko

With local and state leaders encouraging California residents to purchase electric vehicles, owners of the eco-friendly cars in Noe Valley are calling for more charging stations to be installed in the neighborhood. To date, there is just one station that is publicly accessible, located in the parking lot adjacent to the Walgreens on Castro Street.

There are no immediate plans to add charging stations to the city-owned parking lot on 24th Street. And the city has only just begun to look into designating on-street parking spaces exclusively for EV-charging at the curbside.

Of the 460,000 registered vehicles in San Francisco in 2018, just 2.3 percent, or 10,648, were EVs.

If the city’s new Electric Vehicle Roadmap is followed, all private vehicles will be emission-free, and thus electrically powered, by 2040. The document also calls for all new car sales to be electric by 2030.

“The path to an emissions-free future is by electrifying our private-sector cars and trucks,” said Debbie Raphael, director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment. “By making charging



**Evidence of Function.** The parking lot for the Noe Valley Walgreens on Castro Street has one electric charging station that is sometimes working, as in this photo taken Oct. 31. Photo by Jack Tipple

more readily accessible, we will promote even greater EV adoption, which will reduce emissions, improve air quality, lower asthma rates, and create a more livable city for all.”

According to the city agency, 600 public EV-charging stations have been installed in San Francisco since the 1990s. Because many residents live in apartments or homes without garages, and thus lack easy access to electrical outlets to recharge their EVs, having publicly accessible charging stations is a necessity for the city to achieve its goals.

Without them, supporters of EV ownership contend, it creates a roadblock to convincing people to give up their gas-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



OPENSFHISTORY



**Building the Valley.** This 1917 view of Noe Street between 28th and Valley streets, noted Horace Chaffee of the San Francisco Department of Public Works, shows street work and damaged concrete on the front-yard retaining walls of several homes in the 1500 block. *Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher

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SOLD

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SOLD

SOLD \$380K OVER LIST  
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SOLD

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SOLD

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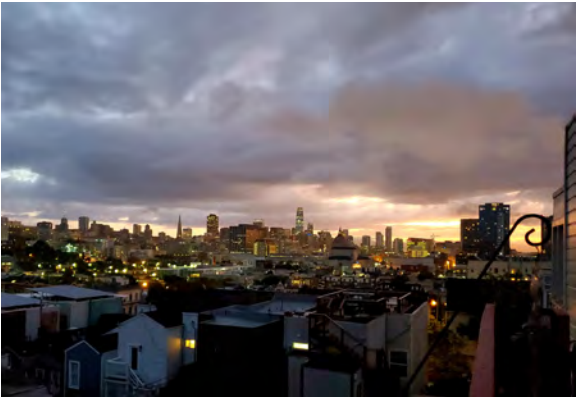
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# LETTERS

### Brief and to the Point

Editors:  
Since the *Voice* became a real estate resource more than a “community resource of its kind,” it is harder to support it.  
Regards,  
Hasim Zecic

### Down Memory Lane—Twice

Editors:  
I got a kick out of the October 2019 reprint of Jeff Kaliss’ November 1989 story in the *Voice* about how Noe Valley was affected by the Loma Prieta Earthquake, and I vaguely remembered reading the original story 30 years ago.  
But I had forgotten that my joker husband, Dave Sherk, had called himself “David Chesley” (my last name) in the interview with Kaliss. Everything else Dave and our son Nathan told Kaliss was absolutely true, however! We had very little damage from the quake, and still live in the same house.  
And the story about the gas station at what is now the Town Square also brought back fond memories. In about 1988 we were having pizza at Haystack, and the cook gave each of our sons, Nathan and Andrew (Sherk!), a ball of dough. The boys went outside to play, and a little while later Andrew came in crying. He had hurled his blob of dough and accidentally broken a large window at Dan’s Gas next door! I can’t remember how we got in touch with the station owner, but he told us not to worry about it, that he would take care of it. We were so grateful!  
Thinking back to those days in Noe Valley, I remember we were one of only a few young families. We walked to Bell Market (now Whole Foods), Real Food’s, the Noe Valley Library, Walgreen’s, the post office, and Plate’s Bakery (now Noe Valley Bakery).

## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Lots of our neighbors were old folks, and their children had moved away. Now we are the oldsters, and there are many more young families and little children around. Noe Valley just keeps getting better!  
Thanks for the walk down memory lane.  
Martha Chesley  
Chattanooga Street

### Florence Fraga Turns 100

Editors:  
Mrs. Florence Fraga, a resident of Grand View Avenue since 1955, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 29, 2019, with friends at Original Joe’s restaurant in North Beach.  
She was thrilled to receive a certificate of honor and congratulations from Mayor London Breed, as well as another from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which was arranged and signed by our District 8 supervisor, Rafael Mandelman.  
Although not able to attend Mass any longer, she has been a member of St. Philip’s Catholic Church for over 60 years. Ad multos annos, Florence!  
Mike Henseler  
A neighbor

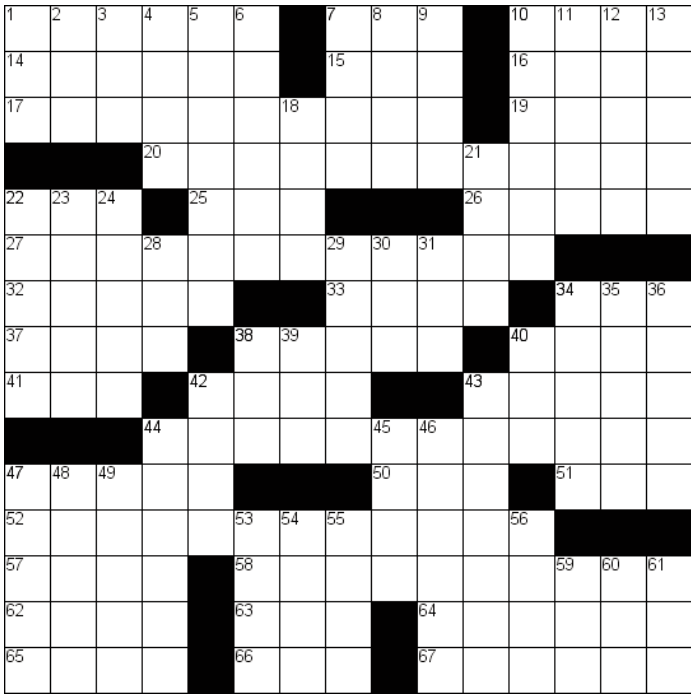


Noe Valley resident Florence Fraga celebrated her 100th at Original Joe’s, where she was showered with commendations from the mayor and board of supervisors.

## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Get Real

- ACROSS
- 1. Prague residents
  - 7. BlackBerry, e.g., for short
  - 10. Pool-cue powder
  - 14. Dough or cabbage
  - 15. With it
  - 16. Golden Gate Fields shape
  - 17. Do an “innocent” thing that may lead to #metoo accusations
  - 19. Italian tower town
  - 20. Internal judge of right and wrong
  - 22. Choice at The Dubliner: Abbr.
  - 25. \_\_\_\_ Shorty
  - 26. Fabulist of yore
  - 27. Classic train line that ran from Illinois to Colorado
  - 32. Adam of *Chicago Hope*
  - 33. Soup at Saru Sushi
  - 34. Statute
  - 37. “Greetings, Jose”
  - 38. Decree
  - 40. Disaster aid org.
  - 41. Partner of “all”
  - 42. On an even \_\_\_\_
  - 43. Taron’s role in *Rocketman*
  - 44. Member of a 19th-century Irish secret society
  - 47. ‘90s Brit sitcom
  - 50. “So that’s your game!”
  - 51. Beatty or Rorem
  - 52. “How do I get to \_\_\_\_?” “Practice, practice”
  - 57. Calc prerequisite
  - 58. Developed a mental picture
  - 62. Russian range or river
  - 63. “His Master’s Voice” sloganer
  - 64. Online broker that took over the circular Sharper Image building in SF



- 65. Burning heap
  - 66. Isle of \_\_\_\_
  - 67. Kind of Noe Valley company found at the end of four long entries in this puzzle
- DOWN
- 1. 1 in. = 2.54 \_\_\_\_
  - 2. B.C. anteater’s sound
  - 3. Abbr. in a help-wanted ad
  - 4. Shut (up)
  - 5. Like some headlights
  - 6. *The Secret \_\_\_\_*: Conrad
  - 7. Dr. McGraw of TV
  - 8. Kind of brake
  - 9. Lhasa \_\_\_\_ (dog)
  - 10. 1950s TV title character haunted by ghosts
  - 11. Alternatives to Nikes
  - 12. Lariat
  - 13. Hold tightly
  - 18. Jennifer \_\_\_\_, Noe Valley speech pathologist
  - 21. Subs, Inc. spread, for short
  - 22. Kind of potato
  - 23. Eva or Juan
  - 24. Bracelet locale
  - 28. By way of
  - 29. Post all about manners
  - 30. JPEG file, often
  - 31. DDE’s predecessor
  - 34. Allow entry
  - 35. “That’s \_\_\_\_” (Dean Martin song)
  - 36. Decreased gradually
  - 38. Unagi at Hamano
  - 39. With “The,” Coronado Island hotel nickname
  - 40. Kind of shot offered at Walgreens
  - 42. NBA great Bryant
  - 43. “Liberte! \_\_\_\_! Fraternite!”
  - 44. Totally botch
  - 45. When doubled, a Hawaiian fish
  - 46. Beer drunk after a shot
  - 47. Activist group whose motto is “Silence=Death”
  - 48. Bonds on a diamond
  - 49. Tuck, for one
  - 53. Bacterium
  - 54. Andean of old
  - 55. Broadway’s *Dear \_\_\_\_ Hansen*
  - 56. Girl’s name (anag. of ARLO)
  - 59. Paperback-publishing co. that owns Signet
  - 60. Summer hrs. in N.Y.C.
  - 61. L.A. Law costar Susan

Solution on Page 26  
Find more Crosswords at  
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### Alzheimer’s Affects Everyone

Editors:  
I grew up in Noe Valley, and my mom was involved with Upper Noe Neighbors for many years. Sadly, now she has Alzheimer’s disease, so I’m volunteering with the Alzheimer’s Association to help others like her. I still live in Noe Valley with my dad, Kevin Wallace, who is now my mom’s primary caregiver.  
Thank you for all of your work keeping local journalism alive!  
[Maxwell Wallace included this letter.]  
Dear Neighbors,  
I’m writing to thank Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her leadership in including key elements of the Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease Act in the recent reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).  
My mom, Marybeth Wallace, was diagnosed with younger onset Alzheimer’s at the age of 59. She was a community activist in Noe Valley for over 30 years, who devoted her life to serving children and families as an employee and then as a board member for Coleman Advocates.  
Sadly, when she was diagnosed and needing help, she wasn’t eligible to get supportive services under the Older Americans Act because she was under 60. The Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Act will expand eligibility to the 200,000 Americans like my mom.  
Please join me in urging Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris to co-sponsor the Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Act (S. 901) in the Senate.  
To learn more and take action, please visit [alzimpact.org](http://alzimpact.org).  
Maxwell Wallace

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your name 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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The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity during the first week of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.  
The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name and contact information, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.  
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Display Advertising Deadline for the December 2019 Issue: Nov. 20, 2019  
Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Nov. 15, 2019  
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REMEMBER

Jameson “Jim” Goldner

Founder of Film Department at San Francisco State

Jameson Goldner, a filmmaker, teacher, and resident of Noe Valley for more than 50 years, died Sept. 30, 2019. He was 81.

Known to family and friends as “Jim,” Goldner was a founder of the nationally ranked Cinema program at San Francisco State University, where he taught for 52 years.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Goldner studied film at UCLA alongside Francis Ford Coppola. He worked on low-budget films and major studio productions before accepting a tenured position at SF State in 1963. At the time, film was a nascent subject in higher education and still a relatively young medium.

Originally based in the Television, Film, and Radio Department, Goldner joined other faculty to establish the Department of Film, now known as the School of Cinema, in 1967. Cinema is now one of SF State’s most prestigious programs, listed by the *Hollywood Reporter* as one of the best film schools in the U.S. in each of the last five years. Earlier this year, *Variety* listed SF State as one of the best film schools in the world.

Goldner retired in 2015, retaining the title of Professor Emeritus. His 100-plus films include the Holocaust memoir *When I Was 14: A Survivor Remembers*, which won Best Documentary at the 2001 California Independent Film Festival,

aired on the Sundance Channel, and screened annually in his Film and the Holocaust class. At one time, Goldner was hired by Lawrence Radiation Lab to set up a filmmaking program and produced movies for Atoms for Peace. He remained a stickler for analog film, requiring beginning students to draw on blank celluloid.

Colleagues said Goldner was a beloved faculty member, known for his affection for students.

“He was gentle but possessed a rigorous teaching method and a sense of humor that infused his very being,” film professor Steven Kovacs said. “He had a penchant for puns that he delivered with mischievous glee. No faculty meeting concluded without a comment from Jim that broke the tension, made his colleagues laugh, and put the issue in proper perspective. Generations of students sang his praises.”

Sarah K. Hellström (B.A., Cinema, ’04) kept in touch with Goldner long after graduating.

“As a young Cinema student, focusing on writing and directing back in the early 2000s, Jim made me feel like he really believed in me,” Hellström said. “This was his magic—making students feel special and truly seen.”

Goldner is survived by his wife Geri Rossen, daughter Naomi, and grandchildren Leon, Marcel, and Aliza May.

Naomi Goldner says her father loved to meet former students and friends on 24th Street, a few blocks from his home on Diamond Street. In the 1970s and ’80s, his favorite spots were the iconic Herb’s Fine Foods, Hopwell’s, and the Courtyard Café.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SF State’s Jim Goldner Filmmaking Scholarship. If a total of \$25,000 is raised for the fund, the university will



Students appreciated the technical expertise and sense of humor of Jameson “Jim” Goldner, who taught filmmaking at San Francisco State University for 52 years.

permanently endow the scholarship for future generations. Send donations by check noting the Goldner Scholarship to University Development, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132, or online at [give.sfsu.edu/goldner](http://give.sfsu.edu/goldner).

The SF State School of Cinema will host a public memorial for Goldner on Friday, Dec. 6, in Coppola Theatre (Fine Arts Building, Room 101), 1600 Holloway Ave. The reception starts at 6 p.m., with tributes beginning an hour later. For more information call 415-338-1629 or email [cinedept@sfsu.edu](mailto:cinedept@sfsu.edu).

*The Voice thanks Matt Itelson for this tribute to Jim Goldner. Itelson grew up a block away and remembers the joys of trick-or-treating at Goldner’s house.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your full name 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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**Visions in the Valley.** Our photographer uses his HogaLens to add to the beauty of this Bird of Paradise on 22nd Street near Church. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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# Noe Valley Is Almost an Electric-Charging Desert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guzzling vehicles.

"If that is going to happen, the city has to make it feasible for more people. Not everybody has a garage space or designated garage spot," said Gary Grossman, who since May 2018 has leased a Kia Soul EV with a range of 110 miles per charge.

He and his husband don't have access to their apartment building's garage, so they park their car on the street. They weren't concerned about how to charge up their EV since they live on Noe Street near Walgreens. Plus, said Grossman, most weekends they visit his mother-in-law in Sonoma and can plug into a charger there that takes about five hours to fully recharge their car.

In San Francisco, he often drives to the Whole Foods in the Castro on upper Market Street, where he can charge his car in the grocery store's parking garage while he shops. There are charging stations located inside the parking garage at St Luke's Hospital, but Grossman noted he would need to pay to park there while utilizing them.

Neither the Whole Foods in Noe Valley nor the Safeway shopping center in Diamond Heights, both of which would be closer for him, provides charging stations for EVs.

Grossman would like to see the city offer incentives to the owners of such private parking lots to install EV-charging stations. And he favors seeing the city set aside parking spaces on the street as charging stations for EVs.

"I know it is not ideal," he acknowl-

edged. "People will feel the city is taking away parking spots for everybody. But we really need to encourage more people to drive electric vehicles."

## Extension Cords a Stretch

For years Adam Gill resisted buying a Tesla since he isn't a homeowner and doesn't have a garage where he can easily recharge the electric vehicle's battery. Then, last year, friends of his and his girlfriend who also live in San Francisco and don't have a garage purchased a Model 3 Tesla.

"My girlfriend test drove it and loved it," recalled Gill, who works for a technology company on the Peninsula. "She said we should get one."

Last November, the couple bought their own Model 3 Tesla, which averages 310 miles per a full charge of its battery. But they quickly encountered the very issues that had caused Gill pause in becoming an electric vehicle owner in the city.

Their building in Noe Valley doesn't have a garage, so Gill experimented with plugging his car into an extension cord he had run out a window in order to power Christmas lights on a tree outside. It proved to be an unworkable solution as it took hours to fully charge.

He explored the possibility of installing a special outlet to get a faster charge on the exterior of the Victorian he lives in that he could plug his car into while parked on the street in front of his apartment. But his landlord shot down the idea after conferring with an electrician who said it would require expensive upgrades.

## One Station in Noe Won't Cut It

His company provides free EV-charging stations at its offices in Cupertino, so Gill does have the option of driving his vehicle to work when the battery runs low. And there is a closer option in Daly



Gary Grossman tries to call for help after he and husband Matteus discover the EV-charging station at Walgreens is on the blink. Their next closest option is at Market and Church.

Photo by Art Bodner

City, where the Serramonte Center has a supercharging station for Tesla vehicles. It can fully charge them within 40 minutes.

"Keeping the car charged is not a problem because I can drive it to work to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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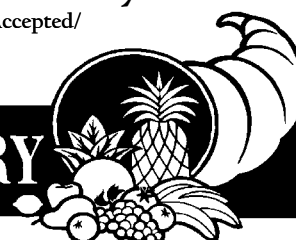
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# Electric Car Owners Looking for More Plug-Ins

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

charge. By the time I come home, I still have 85 percent of the battery life,” said Gill.

But should he leave his job, Gill said, he would have few options close to his home in Noe Valley. And for most of the past year, the Walgreens lot EV charger wasn’t functioning—it came back online in mid-September—and when it does work, it takes 10 hours to fully charge Gill’s car.

That isn’t really an option, noted Gill, since the store asks people to limit usage of the lot’s parking spaces to an hour and closes it overnight.

“The ideal situation would be to charge the car overnight somewhere along 24th Street or a place that is walkable from my home,” said Gill.

“I don’t know if Walgreens will tow me if I leave it there overnight. The real solution to this is probably to have 10 to 20 of those charging stations in the neighborhood.”

### Process Needs a Push

In May, Gill attended a listening session the environment department held about its plans to add more EV-charging stations in the city. But he left disappointed by the lack of a concrete timetable and action plan to achieve that goal.

“It is going to become an inhibitor for people buying an electric car,” argued Gill, who in recent months has been in contact by email with city officials working to address the issue.

In a series of email exchanges with Gill this fall, Raphael of the environment department explained some of the challenges in locating more EV-charging stations in Noe Valley. For one, she noted that the 24th Street lot owned by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is “a relatively smaller lot” and has not been targeted to have a charging station.

“That said, we are happy to approach our MTA colleagues with your suggestion about potential projects at this site,” she wrote.

### City Charging Up

Since 2015 an Electric Vehicle Working Group has been tasked with devising a plan for how San Francisco can meet its EV goals. It released the EV Roadmap this summer.

In October the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved first-of-its-kind legislation co-authored by Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Aaron Peskin that requires commercial parking lots and garages with more than 100 parking spaces to install EV-charging stations in at least 10 percent of the parking spaces.

“In order to meet our climate goals and improve the air we breathe, we need to reduce our dependence on private vehicles and get people onto transit, bikes, and sidewalks,” said Breed. “However, we know there will still be some people who will continue to have their own car, and for those people we want to make it as convenient as possible for them to transition to an electric vehicle.”



Even when the EV charger at Walgreens is working, it’s not very efficient. Adam Gill says it takes 10 hours to fully charge his Model 3 Tesla. With only 60-minute parking allowed, that idea’s a non-starter. Photo by Art Bodner

Owners of 300 private parking facilities in the city will be required to install the EV-charging stations by Jan. 1, 2023. The city is also reviewing proposals from EV-charging providers to deploy EV-charging stations at up to 38 municipal parking facilities that are accessible to the public. A decision is expected sometime in 2020.

“It will be based on where the biggest need is to expand charging stations right now,” Zach Thompson, a zero emission vehicle analyst with the city, told the Voice.

Thompson did not know exactly how many EVs were owned by people living in Noe Valley. Nor did he expect that parking rates would be waived for EV owners using city garages and lots to

charge their cars, though he noted that some of the surface lots that had EV-charging stations were free to park in at certain times.

Peter Gallotta, who recently left his position as a spokesperson for the environment department, said a report on how the city could install curbside EV-charging was expected to be released by the end of the year. Demand for EV stations in the city continues to increase, he noted.

“The hope is to get EV-charging in more neighborhoods throughout the city. The EV Roadmap is a positive step forward to that goal,” he said.

To learn more about the city’s EV plans and to download a copy of the EV Roadmap, visit [sfenvironment.org/electricmobilitysf](http://sfenvironment.org/electricmobilitysf). ■



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# Whole Foods Shut Down by Animal Rights Protesters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

actor Alexandra Paul.

The Noe Valley store reopened for business in the early afternoon as police removed the yellow tape that had impeded pedestrian and vehicular access to the block.

More than 35 protesters were arrested, with some taken to Mission Police Station for processing, while the remaining demonstrators held a rally on the sidewalk with music and speakers exhorting Amazon to change its animal-treatment practices.

Amazon acquired Whole Foods in 2017, but the grocery chain is still run from its previous corporate headquarters in Austin, Tex. At press time, the arrested activists were scheduled to be arraigned in San Francisco court on Nov. 5.

**Dueling Statements**

Cassie King, a spokesperson for DxE, said in a statement, “We have found repeated evidence that Amazon and Whole Foods’ supplier farms practice animal cruelty while the company markets these products as free range and humane.”

She said the Berkeley-based group had documented cases of birds being confined in wire cages and suffering from untreated sores and malnourishment.

The protesters also claimed DxE had been unsuccessful in trying to meet with Amazon and Whole Foods representatives to discuss their suppliers’ animal welfare practices.

Meanwhile, Whole Foods spokesperson Betsy Harden issued a statement that read, “Direct Action Everywhere’s re-

peated targeting of Whole Foods Market stores jeopardizes the safety of our customers and Team Members, including [Sept. 30] at our Noe Valley Store.”

She went on to state that Whole Foods is “proud to provide transparency in animal practices through third-party certifiers like Global Animal Partnership. Our high-quality standards, including a commitment to animal welfare, have established us as an industry leader for nearly 40 years.”

**A Barrier to Stores**

Twenty-fourth Street merchants were none too happy about the block-wide shut-down, which lasted the entire morning.

Rachel Swann, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, said she wished the DxE activists had considered the potential negative impact their protest would have on merchants along the closed-off block.

“While I believe in freedom of speech, you have to be aware of the collateral damage to small business that can happen while you protest big business,” Swann said. “I hope next time they can be more thoughtful.”

She also invited the protesters to come back and patronize the small businesses that had lost sales.

Acia Yenne of Small Frys children’s clothing store noted that from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., “delivery trucks were unable to get through and pedestrians were unable to get to appointments on the block.”

Within days of the incident, Whole Foods took legal action to bar DxE protesters from entering its stores. The company asked a state Superior Court judge to expand an existing injunction against DxE protests at four Whole Foods stores in the Bay Area and one in Southern California, to include the Noe Valley store and all other markets in California, pending a trial set for February 2020. ■



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**Noe Valley at Your Feet.** In addition to the beauty added to our neighborhood by the Community Benefit District (a special “Thank You” to those businesses participating!) some merchants find and fill opportunities to make your stroll down 24th Street a bit brighter. Thanks to Flowers of the Valley at 4077 24th, for this permanent display. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Brisk Sales in September

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers coveting an address in fashionable Noe Valley purchased 11 single-family detached homes in September.

That was a marked increase from September a year ago, when just two sales were recorded, according to data provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Buyers didn't hesitate to open their wallets. Two of the properties sold for more than \$4 million, and three others attracted bids topping \$3 million.

The demand was so strong that 10 of the 11 dwellings sold for higher than the amount sellers were asking, said Zephyr president Randall Kostick. The one property that failed to break that barrier was sold for the seller's listed price.

Buyers' willingness to splurge helped push the average sale price in September to \$2,932,734.

Buyers paid \$4.5 million for the month's most expensive house—12.6 percent more than the seller's asking price (\$3,995,000).

The modern contemporary home, located in the 1400 block of Diamond Street between 27th and Duncan streets, was de-



Banks of floor-to-ceiling windows provide spectacular views from a home on Diamond Street that sold in September for \$4.5 million. Other amenities included a gourmet kitchen, skylight, two decks, a media room with wet bar, and an outdoor fire pit.

Photo courtesy Isabelle Grotte/Compass Real Estate

signed by Dumican Architects and built by Eastwood Development. It boasted three bedrooms and 3.5 baths in 3,511 square feet of living space. Amenities included an open floor plan, glass walls on three levels, a deluxe kitchen, radiant heat, an outdoor fire pit, a media/family room with wet bar, and two decks offering downtown and bay views. The home had parking, but for just one car.

The condominium market also was active in September. Buyers purchased five attached properties, compared to six sales the previous September.

Shoppers typically paid 13 percent more than the sticker price. And the av-

erage sale price of \$2,149,200 was 46.3 percent higher than what buyers paid in September a year earlier (\$1,469,167).

One condo stood out from the rest, selling for nearly \$3 million—a price that would be high even for single-family homes in the area. The actual figure was \$2,925,000, 12.7 percent over the seller's

asking price.

For their money, the new owners got a three-bedroom, 3.5-bath luxury home in a new building located in the 4000 block of Cesar Chavez Street, between Sanchez and Noe streets. The residence, spread over two levels, featured a chef's kitchen with a center island, a deck and a private back yard, views, and one-car parking. ■



A luxury condominium in this new building on Cesar Chavez Street sold in September for \$2,925,000. Photo 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 2019	11	\$1,600,000	\$4,500,000	\$2,932,734	20	112%
August 2019	8	\$1,580,000	\$4,030,000	\$2,847,000	11	110%
September 2018	2	\$1,625,000	\$1,795,000	\$1,710,000	5	95%
Condominiums/TICs						
September 2019	5	\$1,205,000	\$2,925,000	\$2,149,200	15	113%
August 2019	9	\$1,110,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,744,333	21	116%
September 2018	6	\$955,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,469,167	8	112%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
September 2019	2	\$1,755,000	\$3,100,000	\$2,427,500	87	97%
August 2019	2	\$1,775,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,287,500	26	98%
September 2018	3	\$1,385,150	\$2,010,000	\$1,798,383	28	104%
5+-unit buildings						
September 2019	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2019	1	\$2,525,000	\$2,425,000	\$2,525,000	57	94%
September 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley for purposes of this survey is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (zephyrre.com) for providing sales data. NVV11/2019

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range October 2019	Average October 2019	Average September 2019	Average October 2018
Studio	5	\$2,300 - \$2,750	\$2,560 / mo.	\$2,537 / mo.	\$2,479 / mo.
1-bdrm	27	\$2,200 - \$4,998	\$3,319 / mo.	\$3,234 / mo.	\$3,670 / mo.
2-bdrm	28	\$3,495 - \$6,500	\$4,441 / mo.	\$4,640 / mo.	\$4,384 / mo.
3-bdrm	21	\$4,995 - \$22,000	\$7,916 / mo.	\$7,450 / mo.	\$6,110 / mo.
4+-bdrm	5	\$6,250 - \$12,995	\$10,348 / mo.	\$11,544 / mo.	\$11,506 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 86 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Oct. 1-11, 2019. NVV11/2019

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NOE  
KIDS  
BY KATIE BURKE

Camille Hussey  
and Her Sidekick,  
Cian Hussey

November is Camille Hussey’s birthday month. This year, she’ll celebrate her ninth birthday three ways: playing card games with her grandma and grandpa in their Chicago home, going to the beach in San Francisco with her family, and having her best friend, Raini, over to Camille’s 29th Street home for a slumber party.

Camille lives with mom Meegan Massagli, chief of staff for national products, service, and performance improvement at Kaiser Permanente; dad Kevin Hussey, owner of the custom-made wood floor company California Wood Floors; and 6-year-old brother Cian, a first-grader at Synergy, where Camille is in third grade. Cian declined a Noe Kids interview but sat next to Camille throughout hers, chiming in with his own answers.

Camille’s family is shopping for a dog, and recently visited Family Dog Rescue, spending time with a 6-month-old dachshund who licked Camille’s hands. Camille hopes for a



Camille says brother Cian is welcome to attend her birthday dinner, but he must steer clear of the slumber party afterwards, unless he’s serving the cupcakes. Photo by Art Bodner

male labradoodle since she misses Riley, her Chicago grandparents’ labradoodle who died. “He was so cuddly and fluffy,” she remembers. Whatever dog they find, the family will probably name it Ralph, she says. Camille has her upcoming slumber party all mapped out. She and Raini will watch two movies, eat cupcakes, and stay awake past midnight. Camille’s dad will make his carbonara with bacon, Camille’s favorite, for dinner. She and Raini will eat with Camille’s family on the ground floor, but they will be in the kids’ downstairs play area after that. “My mom and dad and brother have to stay upstairs, but they’re

going to bring cupcakes down to us,” Camille says. Cian adds, “They’re going to put caution tape by the stairs, to keep us from coming down there.” The next morning, the kids will eat waffles, Camille’s favorite breakfast. Cian’s perpetual interest in playing with Camille can be challenging. “Sometimes I want to play on my own,” she explains. “I usually play with my dolls, or I write. For example, if I’m thinking of a playdate, I like to write down what we’re going to do.” Cian confirms: “I like to play a lot of things with my sister.” His top three activities are building castles with Magna-Tiles, playing cops and robbers, and tackling or wrestling.

In cops and robbers, Camille usually assumes the cop role, which entails lying on the couch pretending to sleep, until Cian, the “robber,” jumps over the couch and runs away from the cop. Once the robber has jumped the couch, the cop has to wait 10 seconds before chasing the robber, Camille explains.

In general, Camille enjoys being Cian’s big sister. “I like that I can hang out with my brother. If he were older, he would probably be alone in his room a lot or I would have to play something I wouldn’t like.” But since she’s the big sister, “we always agree on what to play.” Camille says her dad is the funniest person in the family. “For example,” she says, “when Cian, my mom, or I say, ‘I’m going to the bathroom,’ my dad says, ‘What do you want, a

medal?’” Cian disagrees, saying his silly dances render him the funniest person in the family. “Yeah, he throws his arms and legs around, and he throws pillows, and it’s really crazy,” Camille responds. “Everybody thinks it’s funny.” Both kids say their mom is their hero. “She makes my food every morning, takes me to school, and gives us big hugs,” Camille explains. Their dad also cooks and gives them big hugs, she says. Camille takes aerial dance lessons in the Bayview and African dance in Dolores Park. She also goes to San Francisco State’s campus for math circle, where she solves number problems because she loves math and wants to excel in it. And she alternately plays midfield and forward on the Wolves, a Girls Unite Soccer Club team. “My friends

Katie Burke is a writer and family law attorney, who lives where Noe Valley meets the Mission. Her Noe Kids column features interviews with Noe Valley kids ages 4 to 12. In April 2020, Burke will publish a collection of profiles of San Francisco kids, titled *Urban Playground* (SparkPress). Know a great Noe Valley kid? Email [katie@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:katie@noevalleyvoice.com).



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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, spotlighting new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month we profile the Church Street studio and gallery of tattoo artist Tex Buss.

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The buttoned-up reputation Noe Valley has is the very reason Tex Buss wanted to relocate her tattoo parlor and artist studio in the neighborhood. She figured with little competition for her services, it would be a good spot for her business to thrive.

Buss' hunch proved true, as she will mark her third anniversary on Feb. 28, in a light-filled 1,000-square-foot storefront on Church Street at 27th. It is believed hers is the first tattoo parlor in the neighborhood and—to date—the only one.

"I knew I wanted the Church Street corridor because it is very central," said Buss, who was able to lease a location directly in front of a J-Church Muni stop. "Being on the J line, it is easy for people to get to us."

Since opening her doors, Buss said, "The neighborhood has really welcomed us."

Having built up a global reputation as a tattoo artist, Buss attracts an international clientele, with tattoo seekers hailing from Europe and the Middle East. Older residents of San Francisco have also sought out her services, as have younger Noe Valley denizens.

"That has been a nice surprise," said Buss. "I didn't expect that."

The interior of the business has the feel of a Victorian parlor combined with a modern barbershop. Red stainless steel Craftsman tool cases flank leather chairs where Buss and her two associates ply their tattoo artistry.

The décor includes Buss' own artwork and that of others. She jokes that she sells her paintings "disguised as Laura Buss." Laura is her given name, but she took on the nickname of Tex when she worked as a bartender at the dive bar Lucky 13 on upper Market Street alongside several other women named Laura.

"They asked me where I was from, and I said Texas. They said, 'Tex it is then,'" recalled Buss, who took to the moniker and uses it with her family and friends.

Buss and her husband, Niles, an electrician and native San Franciscan she met 15 years ago, are raising their 5-year-old daughter, Hazel, in Bernal Heights. She first moved to San Francisco nearly 25



Authentic Tattoo owner Tex Buss relaxes with client Collin Tharp while they contemplate what body art to do next.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

—Matthew S. Bajko

years ago thinking she wouldn't stay long but ended up falling in love with the Bay Area.

She had relocated from Scotland, where she first learned about tattooing from the Edinburgh-based tattoo artist Morag Sangster.

Having sought out Sangster to have her create a tattoo for her, Buss became friends with the artist and soon was studying the art form from her.

"She got me started. I had no idea it would turn into a career," said Buss, who got her first tattoo—a little spider on her shoulder—in her hometown of Dallas when she was 14.

She now has lost count of her tattoos, explaining that when your body becomes a tapestry, "Everybody likes to say they have one big one."

Buss is known for creating tattoos featuring birds and animals. She has a love

for the outdoors and is a lifelong birder. "I do it in my spare time. I love how they move. It is magical in a way," said Buss.

Asked whether tattoos could be removed, she said, "Not really, so you should be sure of what you want and that it's meaningful or beautiful."

She said according to surveys she'd read, most people don't regret getting tattoos. But sometimes they wish they'd gotten better art.

As for the name of her tattoo parlor, Buss said it stemmed from her valuing authenticity.

"It is important to be authentic in order to live a happy, valuable life," she said.

Working alongside Buss are fellow tattoo artists Claire Evans and Jared Smith. Evans is known for her black and white images of crying girls combined with natural elements, while Smith tends toward more of a Japanese style.

All three work directly with their clients to design a unique tattoo for them. Depending on the size of the tattoo art, it can take anywhere from under 60 minutes to several sessions for them to complete a design on their client's body. Pricing is based on an hourly rate, with Buss charging \$225. Evans' rate is \$200 and Smith charges \$150.

The tattoo parlor is open seven days a week from noon to 6 p.m. They welcome walk-ins, but Buss recommends those interested in getting a tattoo email the artists directly. Their addresses are listed on the business' website under their artist bios.

An initial consultation will likely be scheduled within days, though it could take several months before the tattoo art is finalized and ready to be applied.

"It is absolutely worth the wait," said Buss. "It is so important to find the right artist for your tattoo."

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# SHORT TAKES

## Merchants Organize Uptown

Merchants and professionals on outer Church Street are banding together as Upper Noe Merchants, a new committee within Upper Noe Neighbors, the community group for southern Noe Valley (generally Cesar Chavez Street south to 30th Street). VIP Scrub Club co-owner Sage Cotton will chair the committee.

Although businesses already are encouraged to join Upper Noe Neighbors, the group's president, Olga Milan-Howells, welcomes the new committee. "Upper Noe merchants are very important to us. We have this symbiotic relationship. They need our neighborhood support, and we need them to be the neighborhood we all love to live in."

Upper Noe Merchants was introduced at a block party held Sept. 28 at Upper Noe Recreation Center. The committee's goals are to represent, promote, and protect the interests of local businesses and the commercial corridor, and to improve communication and cooperation among merchants, both in the neighborhood and before city agencies. The group also will serve as a bridge between residents and merchants, says Christopher Faust, vice president of Upper Noe Neighbors.

Over 20 local businesses, including such familiar institutions as La Ciccia, Omnivore Books, Regent Thai, and Laurel Realty and Investment, are already on board. A directory is in the works.

Businesses interested in joining should contact UNM chair Sage Cotton at [merchants@uppernoeneighbors.com](mailto:merchants@uppernoeneighbors.com).



Peppermint Lion occasionally guards the front door at Bernie's..

Photo by Jack Tipple

## TheSpinonScooters

The group Upper Noe Neighbors is inviting the neighborhood to come hear about electric scooters at its meeting Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

Representatives of one or more of the four e-scooter companies that the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency recently approved for the next year on San Francisco streets will be on hand to discuss their business. The companies—Lime, Jump, Scoot, and Spin—have received the green light to roll out up to 2,500 scooters each, with 40 percent allowed downtown and the rest in neighborhoods throughout the city.

The largest complaint resulting from motorized scooter use during an earlier trial that ended Oct. 15, as well as during an unsupervised introduction of scooters in 2018, was that riders left them on side-

walks, blocking pedestrian access. The SFMTA is building locking stations around town, but until that's accomplished, users will be required to lock e-scooters at bike racks.

Also on the Neighbors' program will be someone from state Assemblymember David Chiu's office. They will bring residents up to date on current legislation.

You can find out more about UNN at [uppernoeneighbors.com](http://uppernoeneighbors.com).

## Classical Music Month

Classical music picks up its annual steam in November in Noe Valley, with five events in the neighborhood.

Our month of music begins Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., with "Love's Sorrow, Love's Joy," the Chamber Music Society of San Francisco concert at Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. On the bill are the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor and the Schumann String Quartet in A major. Tickets are \$25 at Eventbrite and \$30 at the door.

Noe Valley Chamber Music is next up, with a three-concert run by the Horszowski Trio, composed of Jesse Mills on violin, Raman Ramakrishnan on cello, and Rieko Aizawa on piano. On Friday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m., they'll play Beethoven's Ghost Trio and discuss their creative process in an Up Close & Personal salon. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m., they are at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., for Noe Music Kids, using Beethoven, Dvorak, Haydn, and Shostakovich to show how great composers create musical stories.

Finally, on Sunday, Nov. 17, 4 p.m., the trio is back at the Ministry to perform its main concert showcasing pieces by Elliot Carter, Robert Schumann, and Dmitri Shostakovich. Tickets for one or all shows are at [nvcm.org](http://nvcm.org).

## Food for Thought ... and Stomach

Friends of Noe Valley is hosting an end-of-the-year get-together to gather ideas and get organized for 2020. The neighborhood association is interested in hearing what residents would like to do next year. More socializing among neighbors? Group discussions? Maybe a scavenger hunt or 5K? A hometown celebration of the Hindu festival Holi?

Come to the brainstorming Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m., at Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th St. Besides food for thought, there will be food—and drink—for eating. Organizer Linda Lockyer promises "heavy hors d'oeuvres"—platters of meats, cheeses, and desserts, as well as refreshing beverages.

Friends has been around since 1971, but it's still relevant today, Lockyer says. "Friends is important because it's non-political. We have plenty of political groups. Friends of Noe Valley is focused on community events for all ages and backgrounds." Friends holds the May Noe Valley Garden Tour, as well as Word Week, coming in March.

Take a break from the news and let Friends of Noe Valley hear what you want from your neighborhood association. For more information, email [lindalockyer3@gmail.com](mailto:lindalockyer3@gmail.com).

—Richard May

Meanwhile, "The Road Home" is the Resound Ensemble's fall return to Noe Valley with a concert about what it means to find home (or be without one), featuring Whitacre, Szymko, Elgar, and the five women composers of "Quilt Songs." Performances are at the Noe Valley Ministry on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, at 8 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, at Eventbrite, are \$30 premium seating and \$20 general admission. More information at [resoundensemble.org](http://resoundensemble.org).

Classical concerts return to Bethany United Methodist Church, at Sanchez and Clipper streets, Sunday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m., with a free woodwinds chamber music concert organized by music director Ray Capiral. The selections feature flutes, clarinets, oboes, and bassoons, with guest appearances from a piano and some horns.

Note: Capiral himself will be performing in November, accompanying flautist Jef Caers on the piano Saturday, Nov. 9, 5 p.m., in a program that will include pieces by Khachaturian, Liszt, and Scriabin. The free event is at historic Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore St.

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# SHORT TAKES

## Dance, Dance, Dance!

All three November special events at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street involve music—and probably dancing as well. The next Record Hop is Friday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your own vinyl 45 rpm records for DJ Rich Hildreth to spin, and your own ox-fords or blue suede shoes to dance in.

Saturday, Nov. 9, the square turns romantic with a Neighborhood Dinner Party, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Candles, tables and chairs, and live music will be provided. All you need bring is the meal.

Local group Born Cool will play their “fun and funky mix of modern jazz and funk fusion” and maybe even a classic Allman Brothers tune, on Acoustic Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information on events at the square—which are free to the public—go to [noevalleytownsquare.com](http://noevalleytownsquare.com).

## A Proper Election

With all the hub and bub about next year’s Presidential primaries, you might be forgiven if you’ve forgotten there’s a city election this month. But not so fast.

There’s a “race” for mayor, contests for D.A. and Board of Education, and six ballot measures, which will spend your money or set policy in your name.

First, about the money: that would be propositions A and D. Prop. A seeks your vote to float \$600 million in bonds to finance construction of affordable housing. The breakdown would be \$220 million for housing for “extremely low and low-income” people, \$150 million for public housing developments, \$150 million for senior housing, \$60 million to rehabilitate affordable rental housing and to help displaced residents find permanent housing, and \$20 million for housing for teachers.

Prop. D would allow the city to tax ride-share trips (think Uber and Lyft, not taxis) to fund bicycle and pedestrian safety and our perennial favorite: improvements in Muni service.

Prop. C has produced lots of revenue for companies that print political mailers. It would overturn the city’s suspension of the sale of e-cigarettes and repeal some of the rules placed on their manufacture, distribution, advertising, and sale.

Props. B, E, and F are voter advisories. City government is asking us to rename the Department of Aging to encompass disabilities too (B), allow 100 percent affordable housing and teacher housing projects in “public zoning districts” (E), and place new limits on campaign contri-



Rich Mac, Louis Bi, Perry Tom, and Nancy Sabin are among *The Elves of Presley*, a new musical comedy playing Nov. 8, 9, and 10 at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church. Photo courtesy Betsy Eddy

butions by PACs and LLCs (F).

B’s easy, but E and F might require a peek at the voter information pamphlet.

If you vote by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 5, Election Day. If you vote at your polling place Nov. 5, you’ll have from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. to do it. For more details, go to [sfelections.org](http://sfelections.org).

## Honoring Indigenous Cultures

The Sally Brunn/Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St. celebrates Native American Heritage Month with two events in November, one aimed at kids and the other for adults.

The event for adults is “Native Foods of Southeastern Tribes,” on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Ken Harper, an enrolled Cherokee, and Miko Thomas, a Chickasaw tribal member, will discuss and prepare samples of the foods of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole peoples. Tasting will be encouraged.

On Thursday, Nov. 14, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., kids can learn how to make beaded bracelets under the guidance of Dauwila Harrison, youth program coordinator for the San Francisco office of the Friendship House Association of American Indians. Harrison, whose heritage is Pomo, Paiute, and Navajo, has over 13 years of experience in bead art. The event and materials are free, but reservations are required at 415-355-5707. Space is limited.

The events are part of a month-long celebration of Native history at the San Francisco Library. Highlights include the exhibition “The Native Reclamation of Alcatraz Island, 1969” at the Main Library; docent-led tours of Mission Dolores; and an appearance, also at the Main, by Elias Castillo, author of *A Cross of Thorns: The Enslavement of California Indians by the Spanish Missions*

(Nov. 17, 4 p.m.). For the full schedule, go to [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

## The Elves of Presley

St. Aidan’s Church in Diamond Heights has a dramatic history, as in plays—16 of them, all musical comedies. The latest is *The Elves of Presley*, and it’s another romp with the zany staff of the fictitious St. Dympha’s Church, location undisclosed. Diamond Heights theater critic Betsy Eddy raves, “The costumes are wonderful, the singing divine, the dancing fabulous, and the actors terrific.”

In the new musical, Mother Mary and Elphus, King of the Elves of Presley, a town “50 miles south of the North Pole,” join forces to raise money for Christmas and to sing songs with original lyrics and familiar tunes. In reality, the play will also raise money, for St. Aidan’s community

programs, which include a weekly food pantry, monthly senior lunch, monthly diaper distribution, and Resilient Diamond Heights, the neighborhood emergency-preparedness group.

This production is once again written and directed by John Wilk, theater professor at City College of San Francisco. Scrumby Koldewyn returns as music director, and Deborah Shaw as choreographer. Actors in the cast include both amateur and professional singers, many of whom are members of St. Aidan’s.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com). Prices are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 5 to 18. Priority seating on Friday and Saturday evenings is \$35 a person. St. Aidan’s is located at 101 Gold Mine Drive in Diamond Heights.

## Save the Dates

The annual 24 Holidays on 24th Street, a December extravaganza put on by Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals, will jingle from Dec. 1 through Dec. 24.

Activities will include the Christmas tree lighting in the Noe Valley Town Square, photo ops with Santa—and maybe Mrs. Claus too—strolling carolers, the Holiday Wine Walk, and chances to get on Santa’s good list with fundraisers at Novy Restaurant and Noe’s Cantina. Check for specifics at [24on24th.com](http://24on24th.com) or in the December *Voice*.

And while we’re talking dates, Hanukkah runs Dec. 22 to 30, Christmas is in the middle, Kwanzaa starts Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, and the winter solstice occurs at 8:19 p.m. on Dec. 21.

*Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.*

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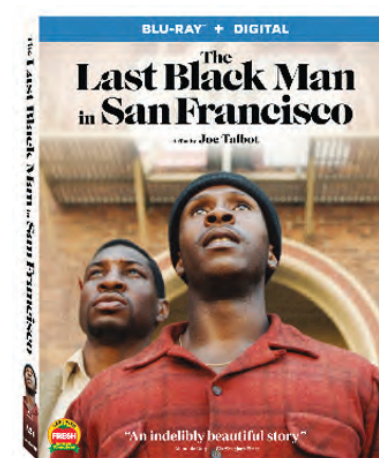
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**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes Class Ads 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you get a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total due for 10 issues. The next *Voice* Class Ads will appear in the **December 2019** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of October. **The deadline for Class Ads is November 15.**

The Class Ads are also displayed at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Only the first few words of the ad will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets are provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. .

**ROGER R. RUBIN**  
*Attorney and Counselor at Law*

**(415) 441-1112**

Law Chambers  
1155 Pine Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109



**I Voted!**  
**我已投票**  
**¡Ya Voté!**

**Earn It**  
Tuesday  
NOVEMBER  
5th





**Flag Football Highlights:** An Upper Noe East player escapes a defender's grasp on game day. Diligent practice under dedicated coaching has put both of the rec center's senior teams at the top of the city league. *Photos by Chris Faust*

## Support Your Local Teams

Football season is charging ahead, and Upper Noe's flag football teams are ruling the gridiron. Upper Noe West, which wears maroon, is 4-0, and Upper Noe East, in light blue, is 3-1, according to Issac Straznickas, who coaches both teams. "[We] have one of the top all around players in the league," says Straznickas. From strong quarterbacks to incredible speed and defensive threats (seven interceptions returned for touchdowns), these teams are exciting to watch. You can catch practice at Upper Noe on Wednesday afternoons. Games are Saturdays at Potrero Hill Rec Center.

Meanwhile, fall recreational programs at the park continue through Dec. 20. Take advantage of free and drop-in classes like zumba, volleyball, and pickleball.

Concerts in the Park concluded its 2019 season in October. Hats off to local singer/songwriter Suzanne Kramer for arranging the outstanding lineup of talent. The 2020 season will begin on Saturday mornings in May.

To find out more about classes and events, visit [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com), drop by the rec center office at 295 Day St., or call 415-970-8061.

## UPPER NOE REC CENTER FALL SESSION AUG. 20 – DEC. 20, 2019

To register, visit [sfrecpark.org](http://sfrecpark.org). Check [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com) for updates.

**MONDAY (Closed; outside activities only)**

**TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	6:45-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	2:30-5:30 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (ages 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer	10-11 a.m.
Simply Fun for All	10-11:30 a.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE
Feldenkrais	1-2 p.m.
Soccer	4-5 p.m.
QuickStart Tennis (age 8-13)	5-6 p.m.
Soccer	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis Intermediate/Advanced (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult Boot Camp	7:45-8:45 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	3-5 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Qi Gong for Seniors (55+)	1-3 p.m.
Volleyball Girls beg. (age 7-9)	4-5 p.m.
Tennis High Performance Juniors (ages 9-11)	4-5 p.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis beg./intermediate (18+)	6-7 p.m.
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6-8:30 p.m. FREE

**THURSDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 4:30-8:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	9:30-11 a.m
Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (age 2-4)	11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Pickleball (all ages)	12:30-3:30 p.m. FREE
Argentine Tango, advanced (55+)	1-4 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. FREE
Theater-Mini Players (age 5-6)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Zumba (family)	5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE
Yoga-Gentle Hatha (18+)	6:45-7:45 p.m.

**FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)**

Open Gym	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*
Auditorium Free Play	1-5:30 p.m.*
Pilates intermediate (18+)	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Shred N Butter (ages 6-13)	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Volleyball League Girls – Interm (ages 10-14)	4-5:30 p.m.
Karaoke for Adults (18+)	6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE
Drop-in Volleyball (18+)	6-8:30 p.m. FREE

**SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)**

Open Gym	None
Auditorium Free Play	12-4:30 p.m.*
Yoga-Vinyasa (18+ all levels)	9:15-10:15 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer (ages 2-3)	10-11 a.m.
Zumba (family) Drop-in only	10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE

**SUNDAY** (Center closed; outside activities only.)

\*Hours are subject to change.



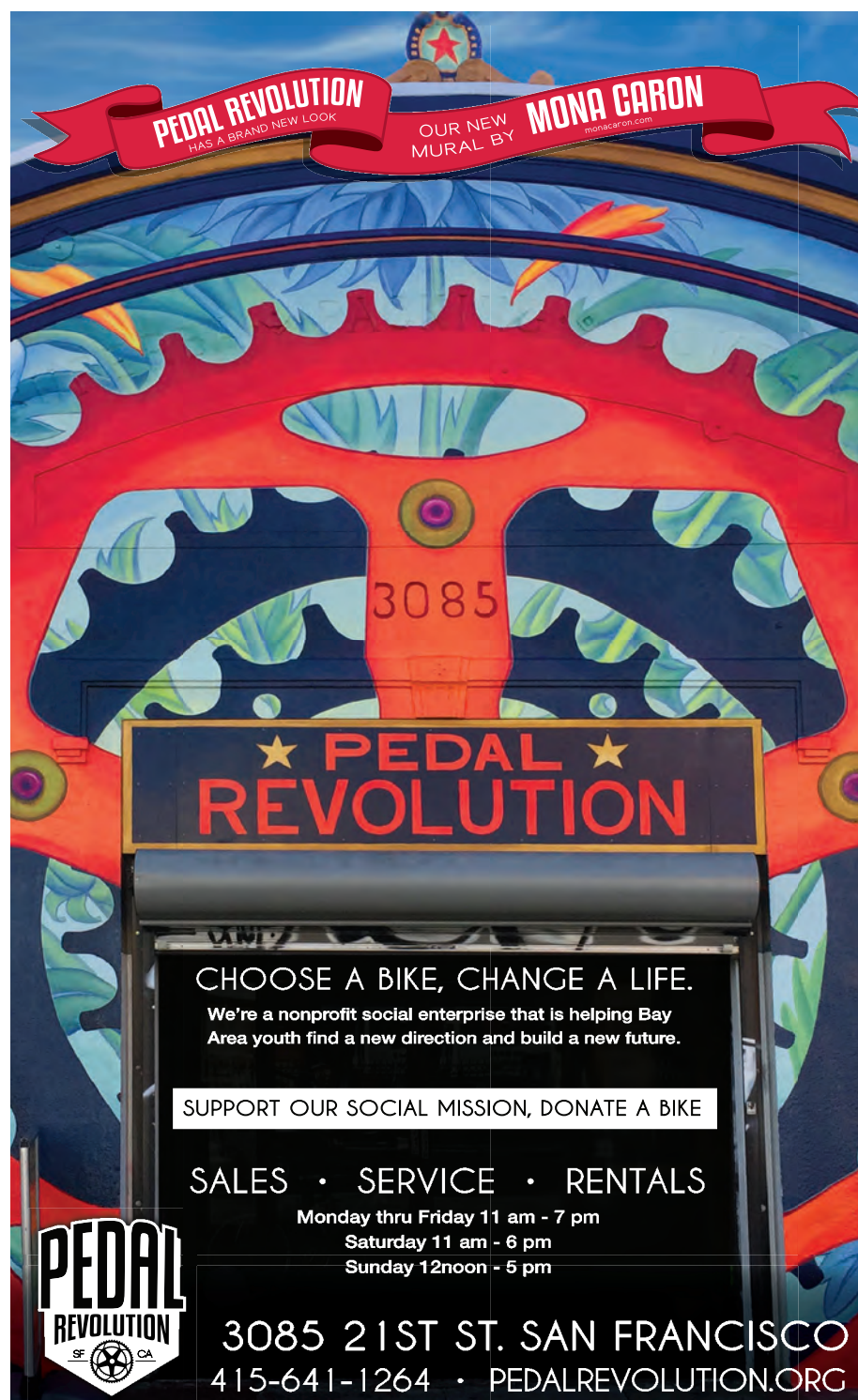
Street trees make San Francisco beautiful. They improve our quality of life, clean the air, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values.

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we'll cover most of the costs.  
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• NOVEMBER 2019 •

**Nov. 1-8:** SOMarts Cultural Center hosts a DIA DE LOS MUERTOS art exhibit, “City of Souls.” 934 Brannan. somarts.org.

**Nov. 1-17:** Inclusions Gallery exhibits “Introspective,” ARTWORK by Jenny Phillips. Wed.-Sat., 1-7 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm. 627 Cortland. 817-1493; inclusionsgallery.com.

**Nov. 1-29:** Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for Adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

**Nov. 1-29:** The Friday night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett bookstore, from 5:30 to 8 pm; Saturday night JAZZ is 7:30 to 10 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

**Nov. 1-29:** (Sub)Mission Cocktails & Comedy features local and national comedians performing Fridays at 7 pm and 8:30 pm. SF Armory Club basement, 1799 Mission. submissioncomedy.com.

**Nov. 1-30:** Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

**Nov. 1-30:** BootCampSF conducts FITNESS training Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30 am. SF Rec Center Basketball Court, 30th and Whitney. 567-9009; bootcampsf.com.

**Nov. 1-30:** The Haight Ashbury Flower Power WALKING TOUR begins at 10:30 am Tuesdays and Saturdays., and 2 pm Fridays. haightashburytour.com.

**Nov. 1-30:** The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER’s Mission Nutrition program serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays, including holidays. Noon and 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

**Nov. 2:** Learn to knit and crochet at the Noe Valley Library’s KNITTING CIRCLE. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 2:** The CHAMBER MUSIC Society of San Francisco performs “Love’s Sorrow, Love’s Joy.” 7:30 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. chambermusicsocietysf.org.

**Nov. 2:** Aki Kumar & Jon Lawton and Mokai with James Nash perform a concert at 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian’s, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Nov. 2-30:** Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live music from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

**Nov. 2-30:** Upper Noe Rec Center offers free Vinyasa YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Nov. 2-30:** The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION for residents of all nine Bay Area counties every Saturday, plus the first Tuesday of the month (Nov. 5 & Dec. 3). 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

**Nov. 2-30:** The Haight-Ashbury Flower Power WALKING TOUR explores the history of the neighborhood. Tues. and Sat., 10:30 am; Fri., 2 pm. haightashburytour.com.

**Nov. 2-30:** 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. 2-30:** The Randall Museum’s close-up of California wildlife, “Meet the ANIMAL KEEPER,” happens Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

**Nov. 3:** Political group ACTION SF meets from 1 to 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. actionsolidarity@gmail.com; resistry.net.

**Nov. 3 & 17:** SF City Guides offers 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. 3-24:** A free T’AI CHI class at the Noe Valley Town Square is scheduled for Sundays, 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 3-24:** Bring your own mat to a free YOGA CLASS at the Noe Valley Town Square. Sundays, 10-11 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 3-24:** Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the area around MISSION DOLORES. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

**Nov. 3 & Dec. 1:** The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

**Nov. 4:** Alison Roman introduces *Nothing Fancy: UNFUSSY FOOD for Having People Over.* 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Nov. 4, 18 & 25:** The ACC Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. For details, email krismoser@aol.com.

**Nov. 5:** The Consolidated Municipal ELECTION includes six propositions and contests for mayor and district attorney. 7 am-8 pm. To find your polling place, 554-4375 or sflections.sfgov.org.

**Nov. 5 & 19:** Bethany United Methodist Church offers free KNITTING lessons with Ray Capral on first and third Tuesdays; free yarn, needles, and instruction. 7-8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Nov. 5-26:** The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 5-26:** Volunteer on Tuesdays to make meals for the hungry at Civic Center Plaza at “Curry Without Worry.” 1:30-5 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Nov. 5-26:** TOWN SQUARE TUESDAYS feature a farmer’s market, music, and kids’ activities in the Noe Valley Town Square. 3-7 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 5-26:** John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

**Nov. 5-30:** SF WOMEN ARTISTS exhibit “Curves & Shapes, Art & Activism,” a juried all-media show. Reception Nov. 7, 5:30-8 pm; Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm. 647 Irving. 566-8550; sfwomenartists.org.

**Nov. 6:** Adult CRAFT NIGHT at the Noe Valley Library features the creation of a resist-dyed wall-hanging. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 6 & 20:** Children 4 and up can read to a dog named Herbee at PUPPY DOG TALES. 4:15-5:15 pm. Eureka Valley Library, I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 6-20:** The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm, through Nov. 20. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

**Nov. 6-27:** Folio Books offers STORYTIME for toddlers Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Nov. 6-27:** Chris Sequeira leads free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

**Nov. 6-27:** The Eureka Valley Library hosts BABY RHYME and play time on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. I Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 6-27:** Holy Innocents Episcopal Church holds Candlesong, a TAIZE-style service followed by a potluck on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

**Nov. 6-27:** Anthony Holdsworth teaches OIL PAINTING for beginners and advanced students on Wednesdays in the gallery of Alley Cat Books. 6:30-10 pm. 3036 24th. 824-1761; anthonyholdsworth.com.

**Nov. 6-27:** AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

**Nov. 6 & Dec. 4:** The GLBT HISTORY Museum is free on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107;

**Nov. 6-Dec. 11:** Julia Griffiths leads a Wednesday all-level PILATES MAT CLASS at Upper Noe Rec Center. 5:30-6:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Nov. 7:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a STORYTIME with Oge Mora reading from Thank You, Omu!. 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 7:** The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses. 6-9 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

**Nov. 7-21:** Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement on Thursdays. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 8:** Charlie’s Corner Bookstore is closing today, but will remain online at charliescorner.com.

noe valley chamber music

27th season  
2019-2020

stunning concerts featuring  
America's greatest piano trio

The Horszowski Trio — November 15-17

“Eloquent, Enthralling” -The Boston Globe



The Horszowski Trio

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**Nov. 7-28:** The Noe Valley Town Square offers group MEDITATION Thursdays, from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 7-28:** Newcomers welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

**Nov. 7-28:** Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

**Nov. 8:** Dancers' Group's free Rotunda DANCE performance features the Nava Dance Theatre. Noon. SF City Hall. dancersgroup.org; 920-9181.

**Nov. 8:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1938 FILM *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, starring Errol Flynn. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 8:** Apollonia Poilâne introduces *Poilâne: The Secrets of the World-Famous BREAD BAKERY*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Nov. 8-10:** St. Aidan's Church hosts performances of MUSICAL COMEDY *The Elves of Presley*. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. 101 Gold Mine. 285-9540, ext. 3; staidnsf.org.

**Nov. 9:** LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on second Saturdays. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Nov. 9:** The de Young Museum offers free admission all day, and performances to celebrate the opening of the EXHIBIT *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, 1953-1983*, which runs through March 15, 2020. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

**Nov. 9:** The year's final Inner Sunset FLEA MARKET also features food, games, and performances. 10 am-4 pm. Irving between 9th and 10th. isflea.com.

**Nov. 9:** The Glen Park Neighborhoods HISTORY PROJECT hosts a walk with architectural historian Hannah Simonson, "Never-Built Diamond Heights." 10 am-12:30 pm. Meet at George Christopher Playground, 5210 Diamond Heights

# CALENDAR

Blvd. glenparkhistory.wixsite.com.

**Nov. 9:** Shaping SF offers a walking TOUR, "Mission District History: 10 Years That Shook the City." Noon-2 pm. Meet at Café La Bohème, 3318 24th. shaping@foundsf.org.

**Nov. 9:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a cooking demonstration, "NATIVE FOODS of Southeastern Tribes." 2-3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; register at litquake.org.

**NNov. 9:** The Noe Valley Town Square's POTLUCK Neighborhood Dinner Party features live music and candlelight from 5:30 to 8 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 10:** LIEDER Alive hosts a performance by soprano Esther Rayo and pianist Peter Grünberg. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

**Nov. 11:** ODD MONDAYS offers readings by history writers Tamim Ansary, Brandon Brown, and Julia Flynn Siler. 6:30 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5 pm. Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th. oddmondays.com.

**Nov. 12:** The Noe Valley Library holds an eReader and ONLINE RESOURCE "Drop-In" from 10:30 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 12:** PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagssf.org.

**Nov. 12:** John Freeman discusses "The Women's HAT Craze in San Francisco, 1907-1915," at the SF Historical Society. 7:30-9 pm. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello. sfhistory.org.

**Nov. 13:** The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 14:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a BEADED BRACELET making workshop for children. 3:30-4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 14:** Travis Nichols introduces *Masterpiece SKETCHBOOK* at a book launch party at Folio Books. 6:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Nov. 15:** The BOOKWORMS Club (and pizza party) features Aimee Lucido discussing *Emmy in the Key of Code*. 6-7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, tiny.cc/followorms.

**Nov. 15:** The Holiday Art Shop opens at CREATIVITY EXPLORED, with a party from 6 to 9 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

**Nov. 15-17:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts performances by the Horszowski Trio. "Up Close & Personal" salon concert Fri., 7:30 pm; Noe Music Kids, Sat., 10:30 am; mainstage performance Sun., 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nvcm.org.

**Nov. 15, 16 & 18:** The Resound Ensemble performs its FALL CONCERT, "The Road Home." Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Mon., 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Resoundensemble.org.

**Nov. 16:** St. Paul's annual Auction and DINNER DANCE, "Havana Nights," features a salsa band and a Car Club display. Cocktails, 5 pm; dinner, 7 pm. Brotherhood Masonic Center, 855 Brotherhood Way. stpaulssf.org.

**Nov. 16:** Ira Marlow performs "Bohemian Highway," a concert in remembrance of Marlene Aron. 8 pm. SF LIVE ARTS (formerly Noe Valley Music Series) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

**Nov. 17:** Sally Love Saunders reads at the POETRY OPEN MIKE at the Cultural Integration Fellowship. 11 am. 2650 Fulton. 668-1559; culturalintegrationfellowship.org.

**Nov. 18:** Kristin and Christopher Shockey discuss *Miso, Tempeh, Natto & Other Tasty Ferments: A Step-by-Step Guide to FERMENTING GRAINS and Beans*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore

Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Nov. 19:** Ingleside POLICE STATION holds a community meeting on third Tuesdays. 7 pm. Community Room, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane. Confirm meeting location at 404-4000; inglesidepolicestation.com.

**Nov. 20:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a LABYRINTH WALK, on third Wednesdays, at 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Nov. 20:** The UPPER NOE Neighbors meeting features a discussion of electronic scooters. 7 p.m. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. uppernoeneighbors.com.

**Nov. 20:** The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION group reads *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* by Dominic Smith. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 21:** Learn how to use database guide NOVELIST. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Nov. 21:** Unmi Abkin and Roger Taylor introduce *CURRY & KIMCHI*, featuring 70 Asian-inspired recipes. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Nov. 21:** James Beshara introduces *Beyond Coffee: A Sustainable Guide to Nootropics, Adaptogens, and Mushrooms* at a BOOK LAUNCH PARTY at Folio Books. 6:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Nov. 23:** Oakland Fairyland's puppeteers and the SF Chamber Orchestra perform "The Nutcracker Sweet." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. thesfco.org.

**Nov. 24:** The Noe Valley Town Square hosts an ACOUSTIC CONCERT by Born Cool. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Nov. 26:** MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400; missionpolicestation.org.

**Nov. 26:** Peter M. Field discusses "San Francisco's Maiden Lane and the Potholes of History," at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. 2266 California. 881-7342; sanfranciscohistory.org.

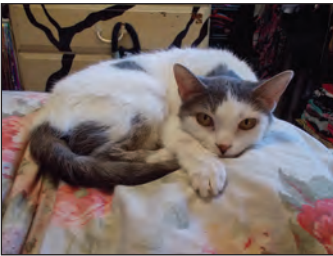
**Nov. 30:** Thalassa Skinner talks about *CHEESE BOARDS to Share*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Nov. 30:** Nomad Session, a wind and brass octet, performs a CONCERT at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nomadsession.org.

**Dec. 1:** A free woodwinds HOLIDAY MUSIC concert, organized by Ray Capiral, runs from 4 to 8 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org.

**Dec. 4:** The group Friends of Noe Valley holds a SOCIAL GATHERING to welcome new members. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. 6 pm. Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th. 268-5260; friendsofnoevalley.com.

**Dec. 7:** Coffee and pastry are provided for volunteers on the JURI COMMONS gardening work crew, 9 to 11 am. The park is between Guerrero, San Jose Avenue, 25th, and 26th. RSVP to meetup.com/juri-commoners.



R.I.P. Oxana. She was a good cat.

Photo by Karol Barske

## Noe Noel

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **December 2019** issue. The deadline for items is November 15. Please email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com)



## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

FRI NOV 1	NANCY SINGLETON HACHISU • FOOD ARTISANS OF JAPAN • 6:30 P.M. FREE
SAT NOV 2	FUCHSIA DUNLOP • THE FOOD OF SICHUAN • 3:00 P.M. FREE
SUN NOV 3	DEREK SANDHAUS • DRUNK IN CHINA: BAIJIU AND THE WORLD'S OLDEST DRINKING CULTURE • 3:00 P.M. FREE
MON NOV 4	ALISON ROMAN • NOTHING FANCY: UNFUSSY FOOD FOR HAVING PEOPLE OVER • 6:30 P.M. FREE
WED NOV 6	DANIEL LEADER • LIVING BREAD: TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN ARTISAN BREAD MAKING • 6:30 P.M. FREE
FRI NOV 8	APOLLONIA POILÂNE • POILÂNE: THE SECRETS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS BREAD BAKERY • 6:30 P.M. FREE
SUN NOV 10	NAJMIEH BATMANGLIJ • COOKING IN IRAN: REGIONAL RECIPES AND KITCHEN SECRETS • 3:00 P.M. FREE
SAT NOV 16	WHITNEY OTAWKA • THE SALTWATER TABLE: RECIPES FROM THE COASTAL SOUTH • 3:00 P.M. FREE
MON NOV 18	KRISTIN & CHRISTOPHER SHOCKEY • MISO, TEMPEH, NATTO & OTHER TASTY FERMENTS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO FERMENTING • 6:30 P.M. FREE
TUES NOV 19	MOLLY STEVENS IN CONVERSATION WITH ANDREA NGUYEN • ALL ABOUT DINNER: SIMPLE MEALS, EXPERT ADVICE • 6:30 P.M. FREE
THURS NOV 21	UNMI ABKIN & ROGER TAYLOR • CURRY & KIMCHI: FLAVOR SECRETS FOR CREATING 70 ASIAN-INSPIRED RECIPES AT HOME • 6:30 P.M. FREE
SAT NOV 30	THALASSA SKINNER • CHEESE BOARDS TO SHARE: HOW TO CREATE A STUNNING CHEESE BOARD FOR ANY OCCASION • 3:00 P.M. FREE
THURS DEC 5	JOHN BECKER & MEGAN SCOTT • JOY OF COOKING: 2019 EDITION FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED • 6:30 P.M. FREE
THURS DEC 12	TONI TIPTON-MARTIN • JUBILEE: RECIPES FROM TWO CENTURIES OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN COOKING: A COOK-BOOK • 6:30 P.M. FREE

## OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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## Noe Valley Town Square Events November 2019

### Featured Events

Friday  
Nov. 1

**Record Hop! 5 - 8 PM**

Bring your vinyls & dance! (1st Friday of each month)

Saturday  
Nov. 9

**Neighborhood Dinner Party! 5:30 – 8 PM**

**Bring your own dinner to a candlelit setting with music in the square.**

Event discounts at local merchants:  
15% off from NOVY and Haystack Pizza  
10% off from Noe Valley Wine & Spirits  
Mention "Town Square Dinner Party" for a discount.

Sunday  
Nov. 24

**Acoustic Sunday in the Square: 1 - 3 PM with Born Cool**

### Weekly Events

Tuesdays

**Town Square Tuesdays • 3 - 7 PM**

Fresh produce & prepared foods • games

Thursdays

**Meditation • 8 - 9 AM**

Saturdays

**Noe Valley Farmers Market • 8 AM - 1 PM**

Sundays

**T'ai Chi 9 - 9:50 AM  
Yoga 10 - 11 AM**



Events take place weather permitting. All events and classes are free and open to the public. 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. [www.noevalleytownsquare.com](http://www.noevalleytownsquare.com)



ADULT/TEEN EVENTS

**Noe Valley Knitting Circle:** Learn how to knit or crochet or just hang out with other knitters at a knitting circle on first Saturdays. There are supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles if you have a special project in mind. Saturday, Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**AAC Conversation Club:** Practice the use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication devices, such as Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, and special apps for smartphones and tablets. For more information, contact Kris Moser at [krismoser@aol.com](mailto:krismoser@aol.com). Mondays, Nov. 4, 18, and 25; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Adult Craft Night:** Transform a piece of plain white cotton cloth into a unique resist-dyed artwork and wall-hanging; all materials provided. This workshop is presented by Peopleologie. To sign up, call 355-5707 or ask at the info desk. Wednesday, Nov. 6; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Friday Matinee:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1938 swashbuckler *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, about an outlaw hero (played by Errol Flynn) who, with the help of his merry men, takes on the Prince John and his mutinous minions. Friday, Nov. 8; 2 to 4 p.m.

**Native Foods of Southeastern Tribes:** Join Ken Harper (Cherokee) and Miko Thomas (Chickasaw) for a cooking demonstration and food-tasting of native foods of the Southeast and Oklahoma. Saturday, Nov. 9; 2 to 3:30 p.m.

**eReader and Online Resource “Drop-In”:** Bring your mobile device or laptop, your library card and PIN, and any passwords you might need, to an informal workshop on using the SFPL’s digital resources. Subjects include the library catalog and databases; Kanopy for streaming films; Flipster and RBDigital Magazines (formerly Zinio) for magazines; OverDrive and Axis360 for eBooks; and hoopla for movies, music, and audiobooks. Tuesday, Nov. 12; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Great Books Discussion Group:** Come discuss outstanding works of literature at a group sponsored by the non-profit Great Books Council of San Francisco. For more information, contact Elena at [eschmid@sonic.net](mailto:eschmid@sonic.net). Wednesday, Nov. 13; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Book Discussion Group:** This month’s selection is *The Last Painting of Sara De Vos* by Dominic Smith. Copies of the book will be held at the Circulation Desk for checkout. Wednesday, Nov. 20; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**NovelList:** Learn how to use NovelList, a database guide that suggests titles for all ages, with reviews. Laptops will be provided, but feel free to bring your own device. Thursday, Nov. 21; 3 to 4 p.m.

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

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Autumn Leaves Fall

All San Francisco Public Library branches will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, to celebrate Thanksgiving. On the day before Thanksgiving, libraries will close at 5 p.m. So now is the time to stock up on reading material.

As usual, the branch manager and the children’s librarian at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library—Denise Sanderson and Catherine Starr—have made this task exciting by giving the *Voice* a list of new titles at the branch. Among them this month (see below) are tales of crime and passion in “notorious” San Francisco, a memoir about recovering from traumatic brain injury, and a children’s book about last year’s under-water rescue of 12 boys on a Thai soccer team.

To check on the availability of these books—and of CDs, DVDs, and various other media—call 415-355-5707 or drop by the Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St. Of course, you also can visit the San Francisco Public Library at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

Adult Fiction

❖ *The Last Widow*, a mystery by Karin Slaughter, is the ninth in the Will Trent/Sara Linton series.

❖ In Joanne Ramos’ debut novel, *The Farm*, sequestered young women are paid to produce babies.

❖ Two women save a quirky Southern town, with help from a whispering book, in *The Book Charmer* by Karen Hawkins.

❖ In *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, two Korean girls working in an all-female diving collective in the mid 20th century try to maintain their friendship over seven decades.

Adult Nonfiction

❖ Sarah Vallance describes the effects of a brain injury caused by a fall from a horse, in *Prognosis: A Memoir of My Brain*.

❖ “*Everything We Have*”: *D-Day, June 6, 1944* is the American story of the Normandy landings, told through personal accounts and images collected by Gordon H. Mueller from the archives of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

❖ *Syria’s Secret Library: Reading and Redemption in a Town Under Siege*, by Mike Thomson, tells the story of a small collection of books hidden during the Syrian Civil War.

❖ *Notorious San Francisco: True Tales of Crime, Passion, and Murder*, by Paul Drexler, covers 20 criminal cases in the Bay Area, including the Zodiac killer.

Adult eBooks

❖ In *I Spy*, a thriller by Claire Kendal, a woman hiding from her past discovers she is being spied upon.

❖ *The Vexations* by Caitlin Horrocks describes the life of composer Erik Satie during La Belle Époque in Paris.

❖ Dayna Lee-Baggley encourages everyone to do better in *Healthy Habits Suck: How to Get Off the Couch and Live a Healthy Life...Even If You Don’t Want To*.

❖ Tibetan Buddhist teacher Anam Thubten’s *Choosing Compassion: How to Be of Benefit in a World That Needs Our Love* offers practices that expand our thinking and open our hearts.

Adult DVDs

❖ The life and work of prize-winning author Toni Morrison are documented in the 2019 film *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*.

❖ Director Quentin Tarantino’s *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* (2019) stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, and Al Pacino, among other luminaries.

❖ The 2019 documentary *Walking on Water* examines Christo’s process in creating his large-scale art installations.

❖ A young man becomes famous by singing Beatles songs that the world has apparently forgotten in *Yesterday* (2019).

Children’s Fiction

❖ *Trains Run!*—by George Ella Lyon and Benn Lyon, with illustrations by Mick Wiggins—is the next book after *Trucks Roll!*, *Planes Fly!*, and *Boats Float!* Ages 4 to 7.

❖ Trans boy Aiden takes on new responsibilities in *When Aidan Became a Brother*, written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita. Ages 4 to 7.

❖ In *Fabio, the World’s Greatest Flamingo Detective: The Case of the Missing Hippo*, written by Laura James and illustrated by Emily Fox, the tall pink bird and his giraffe sidekick hunt for a jazz-singing hippopotamus. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ A young girl waits for her father to come back from war in *Captain Rosalie*, written by Timothee de Fombelle, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, and translated by Sam Gordon. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ Onjali Q. Rauf’s *The Boy at the Back of the Class* tells how kids respond to a new student who is a refugee from Syria. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ The fastest girl on the middle-school swim team learns a lesson in *Up for Air*, written by Laurie Morrison. Ages 10 to 14.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

**Read for the Record:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a special community reading of *Thank You, Omu!*, a book about an elderly woman who shares her pot of stew, in partnership with Jumpstart’s global campaign to highlight the importance of building children’s vocabulary and love for reading. Thursday, Nov. 7, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., or 11 to 11:30 a.m. For all ages but especially 16 through 36 months with parent or caregiver.

**Make Beaded Bracelets:** As part of the San Francisco Library’s month-long celebration called “First Person: Honoring Native and Indigenous Cultures,” Dauwila Harrison, youth program coordinator at Friendship House Association of American Indians, will lead a program on making beaded jewelry. Thursday, Nov. 14; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Join Miss Catherine for books, songs, chants, and movement at **Toddler Tales** on Thursdays from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., or from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Ideal for ages 16 through 36 months with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14, and 21.

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

Children’s Nonfiction

❖ Susan Hood and Pathana Sornhiran describe the ordeal of a group of boys in *Titan and the Wild Boars: The True Cave Rescue of the Thai Soccer Team*; illustrations by Dow Phumiruk. Ages 4 to 8.

❖ *Guitar Genius: How Les Paul Engineered the Solid-Body Electric Guitar and Rocked the World*, written by Kim Tomsic and illustrated by Brett Helquist, tells the story of guitar legend Les Paul. Ages 5 to 8.

❖ In *Liberty Arrives! How America’s Grandest Statue Found Her Home*, Robert Byrd explains the creation of the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ Prince Alexi Lubomirski (photographer of the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle) and his two sons reveal their daily prayers in *Thank You for My Dreams: Bedtime Prayers of Gratitude*. Ages 7 and up.

❖ The Young Readers edition of *American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race*, by Douglas Brinkley, is geared to ages 8 to 12.

❖ *George Washington’s Secret Six*, a Young Readers adaptation by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger, tells the story of “the spy ring that saved the American Revolution.” Ages 10 to 12.

Annotations by Voice bookworm  
Karol Barske

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Get Real By Michael Blake

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BRANCH HOURS

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



## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Seasonal Festive Disorder

By Mazook

**T**HE HOLIDAY HURRICANE: Summer is definitely over, and Halloween has now come and gone. The Thanksgiving turkey is bearing down upon us, with Hanukkah and Christmas on its heels. Take a quick breath and New Year's will arrive a week later, and new calendars all around. But right now, we can stop and celebrate the 101st anniversary of Armistice Day.

Yes, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, in a railroad car sitting in the forest of Compiègne, France, an armistice was signed to end the war they said would end all wars, World War I. It was a seminal point in American history, and it's been celebrated for the past 100 years since Nov. 11, 1919. Congress, in 1954, renamed Nov. 11 Veterans Day, to honor all those who have served in the U.S. military.

Back in 1985, I wrote a Rumors column about a Noe Valley resident who was one of the neighborhood's most distinguished WWI veterans, Joseph "Frenchy" LeCours (1900-1984). He was at the wheel of history when, as a bilingual master sergeant in the American Expeditionary Forces, he drove French Field Marshals Henri Pétain and Ferdinand Foch, and American General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, to Compiègne to sign the peace agreement with Germany.

Frenchy used to tell anyone who would

listen about the battles fought by the American "doughboys" at Meuse-Argonne, Belleau Wood, and Chateau-Thierry. He'd tell you what it was like fighting a war that ended with close to 40 million soldiers and civilians wounded, missing, or dead.

This Armistice Day, put a red rose in your front window for all those war veterans who, like Frenchy, were lucky enough to become old soldiers.



**GHOULS AND BOYS:** The Halloween celebrations started at the Noe Valley Town Square on Sunday, Oct. 27, with the third annual Spooktacular, sponsored by local real estate firm The Agency. Fun stuff included a Haunted Pathway, carnival games, a photo booth, a tarot card reader, and Spooky Tic-Tac-Toe, plus costume contests for kids, adults, and pets. There was beer and wine for the adults, and ice cream for all.

According to event producer Bev Shuemake of IDK Events, "We had to set up in gale-force winds, which was a bit of a challenge." She said because of the gusty winds, "we decided to take all the 'walls' off the Haunted House."

Admission was free. All the kids got goodie bags and a pumpkin. By mid-afternoon, the 300 pumpkins were gone, and over 2,500 people had attended the party, by the estimates of sponsor Rachel Swann and Town Square director Leslie Crawford.

"We had a great crowd," said the smiling Crawford. Swann said she had not counted up what had been raised for local charities, namely the Human Rights Campaign and Give Back Homes, but she estimated it would be around a thousand dollars.

Based on the event's attendance, a large parade was expected in Downtown

Noe Valley on Oct. 31, as the *Voice* was going to press.

Mardie Vandervort, the owner of Church Street's venerable One Stop Party Shop, reports that the top-selling costumes this year were "the Joker and the clown It, as well as anything *Game of Thrones*, all kinds of witches, and [interestingly] lots of cat accessories."



**GOODBYE, CHARLIE:** In downtown Noe Valley, the sad story of the month was that four-year-old Charlie's Corner would be closing its doors on Nov. 8. The popular children's bookstore on the northwest corner of 24th and Castro held story times four times a day, and on different days of the week in Spanish, French, Korean, Mandarin, and Italian.

A mid-October "Letter to Charlie's Friends," stated, "It is with profound gratitude that we say goodbye to the Noe Valley community.... Charlie's is taking a pause. Our website will remain active with updates on our next chapter."

The letter also promised a full refund to Charlie's Club members, punch-card holders, and gift card recipients. (See charliescorner.com.)

It was quite a surprise (or was it?), since last month's Rumors had noted that Charlie's story times would no longer be free, costing \$10 per child. According to Charlie's curator Katharine Wright, the fee was necessary because the store had undergone a rent increase and book sales weren't quite enough to cover it.

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation has discovered the rent is approximately \$8,000 per month (\$4,500 for the corner space and \$3,500 for the next store up 24th Street). That number, of course, does not include the costs of running the store.

It appears Charlie's will stay in cyber-

space for the time being. Noe Valley kids hope the store can find another brick-and-mortar location in San Francisco. They also hope it's in our neighborhood.



**NO VEGGIES FOR YOU:** Noe Valley has lost another local favorite, Church Produce, the fruit and vegetable store at the corner of Church and 30th streets for almost 40 years. There were no goodbyes in early October, just a "Closed" sign on the locked storefront. Remodeling was what neighbors were told was the reason. Then mid-month, an ominous notice to "pay rent or quit" the premises (October's rent was \$5,200 plus \$300 for the garage) was posted on the front door.

Attempts to reach Amen Mann, the current business owner who lives in Sacramento, were unsuccessful, and the shop looks very closed.

We reported in July that Amen was offering his customers a free pick-up service, because parking was so difficult for shoppers.

Also very closed is the old Safeway Store—one of the first in our neighborhood in the 1930s—on the northeast corner of Church and Day streets. For most of its history, 1747 Church was a grocery store. In more recent memories, it was home to Mikeytom Market, Artesanías furniture store, and Cardio-Tone health and fitness studio, the last for the past five years.

However, the building had a change of ownership about a year ago, and it appears Cardio-Tone's lease has now expired. Rumors surfaced last year the new owners had dreams of opening a restaurant in the space. I am hoping for another grocery store or some other retail store. How 'bout a hardware store or maybe a

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

sporting goods store? Oh sure!



PARIS OF THE WEST: Over the hill in Glen Park, Laurent Legendre, owner of the popular Le P’tit Laurent at 699 Chenery (at Diamond), has sold the restaurant, along with the building, to an undisclosed buyer who will continue “with the same menu, staff, and manager (for the past five years, Riin Rohunagi).

“My wife and children have already moved back home to [Chamonix-Mont-Blanc], France, and I will probably be leaving in the first week of November,” says Legendre, “and we are very sad, but we must return to care for our aging parents.”

As you locals know and as reported here, a couple of years ago Legendre took over Le Zinc restaurant at 4063 24th St., next to the Harry Aleo Memorial Public Parking lot. He changed the name to Marius, but soon learned that running two restaurants was too much for him and sold Marius to another restaurateur a year ago. That business closed abruptly two months ago, and the NVBI has yet to sniff out what the owner’s plans are.

Said Legendre in leaving Le P’tit Laurent, “I love Glen Park and had a marvelous twelve and a half years here. We have made so many friends in what is truly the ‘Paris of the West’ (for your edification, there are eight cities in the world with that moniker, ‘Paris of the West’), and I am sure we will return for visits to the city and my neighborhood, Glen Park.

“Winter is coming, and it will be a beautiful time of the year in my home,

Chamonix.”  
Good luck and à bientôt.



MAKI WHOOPÉE: Across from the old Safeway building, a new restaurant has opened at 1740 Church, called Oki Sushi. As you Upper Noe Valleons know, that space has been a sushi spot for around 20 years, and when it first opened it was mobbed by night owls because of its late late hours of operation. The sushi place didn’t even have a name.

Only a month old, Oki already is listed by Yelp as the number one of the top 10 sushi bars in San Francisco, which is pretty cool. Oki’s hours are from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Two of the servers said the diners’ favorite entrées were the garlic edamame (which is a bargain at \$9) and the O-Toro, which is tuna belly. Currently, oysters are on sale. Warm saki is under \$3.

A few blocks away at Church and 25th, Inle Burmese Restaurant held a soft opening in mid-October and already has a four-star-plus Yelp rating. That is good news since that location had been marked by a long period of failed food services. In the early 1900s, the place was a public house and distillery that closed with the onset of Prohibition in 1919.

Lastly, Mahila at 1320 Castro near 24th is now open for brunch on weekends

from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. I am sure the menu will offer some very unusual items. Last time I was there, I asked a neighboring diner how he and his group of six had found the restaurant, and he said they were from Huntington Beach in Southern California and that he had googled “most unusual food in San Francisco” and Mahila popped up.

By the way, there are plans to open a second location in Oakland. Good luck, Azalina.

Mahila’s predecessor, Contigo, closed two years ago, after owners Brett and Elan Emerson moved their family to Santa Cruz to start a new restaurant. The Emersons have opened their new eatery, Barceloneta, on the town’s main drag, Pacific Street. It is double the size of Contigo.



GRIPES OF WRATH: At the Noe Valley Whole Foods meat and fish counter, the “pick a number” device has been broken for six months, and there is no telling when it will be repaired or, dare I say it, replaced. When asked, the folks behind the counter say, “They tell us it’s on order.”

When it gets busy, shoppers’ frustration becomes visible and sometimes audible. Order usually prevails, but it puts the team behind the counter in an awkward

crowd-control position... Hey, Amazon, when are you going to be ready for prime time?

And then there was the “Ambitious Mid Market Makeover” headline on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Oct. 8, with a report by John King describing plans to close Market Street to vehicular traffic in various stages from the Embarcadero to Octavia Boulevard by 2021.

What? For those of us who drive down Market to get to the middle and northern areas of the city, that plan sounds hugely disruptive. My route to work from Noe Valley is down Dolores to Market, right on Market to Franklin, and then left on Franklin and north through the city. And I know I’m not alone.

I contacted our supervisor, Rafael Mandelman, about this Market Street plan, and he assured me the makeover was going only as far as Van Ness, which would preserve my route. What about you?

Speaking of transportation: Posters went up around the neighborhood in late October, announcing the SFMTA would hold an open house on changes to the J-Church line. It’s on Nov. 18, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. Riders, merchants, residents, let the city know what you’d like to see.

While you’re on Church Street, you might want to visit Modern Market, on the corner of 26th Street next to Chloe’s Café. A lottery player picked a \$10 Mystery Crossword Scratchers ticket at Modern last month and won \$750,000 (less federal taxes). Winner “June Rose” has declined media interviews, the California Lottery says. I’m not surprised.



THAT’S ALL, you all. Ride on till next month.

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every hill a novel.

— William Saroyan



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MAPLE, APPLE, AND DRIED CHERRY CROSTATA

*Bonus: This recipe is a repeat from the November 2010 issue of the Voice. And again we are indebted to Julie Antone, former pastry chef at Incanto and Nopa restaurants, who now performs her culinary magic in Houston. We thank her for this sweet homey dessert, which she says is a perfect end to any meal. For other recipes, see back page.*

Dough

1-2/3 cups all-purpose flour  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
Freshly grated zest of 1/2 lemon  
8 tablespoons or 4 ounces of unsalted butter, cut into pieces  
1 large egg, beaten  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Filling

2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch slices  
3 tablespoons sugar  
3 tablespoons maple syrup, Grade B  
3 tablespoons sour cream  
2-1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
Pinch of nutmeg  
Pinch of cinnamon  
1/4 cup dried cherries, soaked in 1/2 cup hot water for 1/2 hour and then drained  
1 egg yolk, lightly beaten  
3 tablespoons turbinado (or brown) sugar

**Dough:** Blend the sugar, flour, salt, and lemon zest on low speed in a mixer with the paddle attachment. Add the chopped butter, continue mixing until the dough is sandy and the butter is pea-sized. Add the egg and the vanilla and mix until the mixture comes together, then mix it for 15 seconds more.

Remove the dough from the mixer and shape into a disc. Wrap the dough in plastic and wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. The dough is good for up to 3 days.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Sprinkle flour on a flat surface and roll out the dough into a circle that is 10 inches in diameter. The dough may crack a little but can be repaired by patching it back together again. Carefully transfer the dough to the pan.

In a medium bowl, mix the sugar, maple syrup, spices, sour cream, and flour together. Add the apples to this mixture. In the center of the dough, place the filling mixture. Spread slightly.

Fold 1/2 to 1 inch of the outer edge of the dough circle over the edge of the apple mixture. This will form the edge of the crostata. Brush the dough with the egg wash and sprinkle with turbinado or brown sugar. Sprinkle the cherries on top of the apple mixture. Place in oven and bake for 30 to 45 minutes or until the underside of the crust is a golden brown.

Best served warm.

Note: You can use pears instead of apples, and raisins or cranberries instead of the cherries. Serves 6.



**Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood**

www.facebook.com/actionsfsolidarity  
Email: actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com  
http://www.resistrypac.org  
Meetings: First Sunday, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. All welcome.

**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/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

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

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

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

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

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

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235  
Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

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

**Fairmount Heights Association**

Contact: Kathy Keller, 912-9365  
Email: Kathy.Keller44@gmail.com  
http://fairmount-heights.org  
Meetings: Monthly social mixer and discussion, 350 Amber Drive

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

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

**MORE GROUPS TO JOIN**

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

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

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

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

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

**Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center (Upper Noe Rec Center)**

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

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

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel  
Email: info@fundogsf.org  
Website: www.fundogsf.org

**Glen Park Association**

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

**Juri Commoners**

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

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

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

**Merchants of Upper Market and Castro**

Contact: 835-8720  
Email: info@castromerchants.com  
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

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

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

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
Dispatch: To report spills, 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: Fourth Tuesdays, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 6:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Farmers Market**

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

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

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.  
Website: www.NoValleyMerchants.com

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

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

**Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco**

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahooogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahooogroups.com

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

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

**Progress Noe Valley**

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

**Resilient Noe Valley Initiative**

Co-sponsor: Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN). Host: David Brown, Pastor, Noe Valley Ministry, sfrevdab@gmail.com, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Details: 282-2317.

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

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole\_roberts@faludi.com  
Website: http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879  
Meetings: See website for upcoming SF NERT training in Noe Valley in early 2020.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

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

**Stand Up San Francisco**

Contacts: Laura Shapiro, Phyllis Ball, Paul Silverman  
Email: info@standupsf.net  
Website: www.standupsf.net  
Meetings: At offices of members of Congress, weekly.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Olga Milan-Howells, 756-4455  
Email: President@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St. Call to confirm.

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.

**Become a Friend of the Noe Valley Voice**

Help the *Voice* Continue to Serve our Community



“... the *Voice* is the best neighborhood newspaper in the city, if not the state, if not the country.”

*Kristin Anundsen, Noe Valley Resident*

For over 40 years, the *Noe Valley Voice* has told the stories of many of the people, merchants, and animals who make this neighborhood one of the most sought after places in San Francisco to live, work, and shop. During that time, the *Voice* has become known as the best community resource of its kind.

Local businesses, institutions, and individuals who have purchased advertising space help us pay production costs and most of our contributing writers, artists, and photographers. We offer our heartfelt thanks to them.

But the past decade has seen a steady decline in our revenue, mostly due to competition from internet advertising options. It's becoming ever more difficult to produce the paper.

If you appreciate what we do and are able to help financially, please send a contribution check or money order (payable to the Noe Valley Voice) to:

Friends of the Noe Valley Voice, PO Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146

Questions? Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com

*Thank you! Jack Tipple and Sally Smith, Editors and Co-Publishers*



# The *Voice* Is Serving Comfort Food

## Recipes for Fun, Survival, And Thanksgiving

Last month, as mini-quakes were bouncing us out of bed, extreme winds were starting to blow, and the Golden State Warriors were losing their first game, we put out the call for *Noe Valley Voice* contributors, past and present, to send in their recipes. It was time again to share the food that brings us together, that makes us grateful for friends and family and the good things we do have.

Below are the gems we had room to print on this page. If you'd like more, take a look at our Back Issues at noevalleyvoice.com. When you search for *Recipes*, you'll find "Noe Valley Restaurants Share Their Recipes" (November 1997), "Local Cooks Spice Up Thanksgiving" (November 2004), and "A Taste of Holiday Recipes" (November 2010), to name just a few of our chestnuts over the years. Feel free to send in your own recipes for future issues. It looks like we're going to need them.

—Sally Smith and Jack Tipple

### SIMPLE SAUSAGE STUFFING

From reporter/editor Matthew S. Bajko

Growing up in New England, the only stuffing my family ever bought was Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Classic Stuffing. My maternal grandmother and my mother both swore by the stuff and made a very simple sausage stuffing at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. They would follow the directions on the back of a 14 oz. package of stuffing and combine it with a pound of Jimmy Dean Premium Pork Sausage Roll, regular flavor.

Since moving to the Bay Area two decades ago, I have found it can be hit or miss at the holidays in terms of local grocery stores carrying the right kind of stuffing. (One year, I had to resort to using the cubed version, which isn't as good to my taste buds.)

But searching the aisles at multiple stores is worth the hassle to bring back a cherished childhood dish. I like to mix half of a regular flavor of the sausage with half of the hot version.

Even better than the hot stuffing dressing turkey right from the oven is adding a layer of cold stuffing to leftover turkey sandwiches on a good rye bread—itsself hard to find amid San Francisco's sour-dough love affair—with mayo and cranberry sauce.

#### Ingredients

- 1 4 oz. package of Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Classic Stuffing**
- 1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick)**
- 2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped (about 1 cup)**
- 1 large onion, coarsely chopped (about 1 cup)**
- 2-1/2 cups chicken broth (homemade preferred)**
- 1 lb. package of Jimmy Dean Premium Pork Sausage Roll (or half of the regular and half of a hot version)**

In a 3-quart saucepan melt the butter over medium heat.

Add the celery and onion and cook for 5 minutes or until tender-crisp, stirring occasionally. (You can also add mushrooms if you like.)

Add the broth to the saucepan and heat to a boil.

Remove the saucepan from the heat, add the stuffing and mix lightly.

Let it cool before adding the sausage. (Mixing by hand works best.)

Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Spoon the stuffing mixture into the cavity of the turkey.

(Any leftover stuffing can be baked in a dish in a 350°F oven covered for 30 minutes. I will pop it in after I take the turkey out to cool.)



Acorn bread, a staple in native cultures in California, goes well with mushrooms of all kinds.

Photo by Charles Kennard

### CHARLIE'S SAN FRANCISCO ACORN BREAD

From photographer, writer, weaver, and boat builder Charlie Kennard

I was still wet behind the ears when I started photographing for the *Voice* in 1979—and was paying \$125 rent for a cottage on Fair Oaks Street. After 25 years with the *Voice*, I threw in the film canister, and moved to San Anselmo, where my life now revolves around basket-weaving. I'm currently weaving a boat.

Acorns were the main staple food of most of California's native peoples, and were usually cooked in a basket and served as mush. Here's my recipe for San Francisco Acorn Bread.

**Acorns:** Gather 2 cups of acorns from coast live oak trees in the northeast corner of Golden Gate Park.

Dry. Crack and remove acorn meat from shells and papery membrane. Grind the nuts in a blender to produce a fine flour.

To leach out the tannin, place the flour in a sock-sized cotton bag, and hang overnight under a very slowly dripping tap. Squeeze out most of the water. If you let the wastewater collect in a bowl, you can test it for bitterness.

Add chopped **walnuts**, Noe Valley **honey**, and Ocean Beach **salt** to taste.

Place the dough onto a sheet of foil, press into a half-inch-thick patty, and wrap with the edges of the foil.

Bake at 300 degrees for 1½ hours. If the bread does not firm up, unwrap, turn over, and bake further. It should be dark and firm, good for nibbling with richer fare.

### QUINOA SQUASH RISOTTO CAKE

From writer and stringer Heather World

A friend steered me to this recipe from the Smitten Kitchen website when I was complaining that one of my children is a picky eater. And lo, the children ate it. I don't know if they approved of the mild sweetness from the butter squash puree or the texture of the quinoa or the tang of the cheese, but I've been making it regularly ever since. I use regular butter, gruyere and cream cheese, but Smitten Kitchen gives a dairy-free version. The recipe was adapted from one by Edmundo Hernandez. It makes 8 servings.

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. Earth Balance butter substitute (or butter)**
- 1 small yellow onion**
- 1 large clove of garlic**
- 1-3/4 cups uncooked quinoa**
- 3 cups hot water (or 1-1/2 cups hot water plus 1-1/2 cups hot broth)**
- 1 cup butternut squash puree**
- 5 oz. Tofutti non-dairy cream cheese (or the real thing)**
- 5 oz. shredded non-dairy cheese (or gruyere)**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper**

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Finely chop the onion and the garlic. Melt the butter in a large pot over a medium low heat. Sauté the onion and garlic in butter for 5 to 7 minutes.

Add the quinoa and hot liquids and stir. Cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.

Mash the cream cheese and squash together. Stir in the salt and pepper. Add the shredded cheese. Stir the cheese mixture into the quinoa.

Grease an 8-inch spring-form pan. Put the quinoa risotto into the pan and press to level.

Bake for 30 minutes. Allow to cool 30 minutes before serving.

Best if refrigerated at least 2 hours before cutting and reheating.

### SWEET POTATO GRATIN

Sent in by crossword puzzle maker Michael Blake and emergency management consultant and food lover Barbara Howald

Recipe by Yottam Ottolenghi, from his *Ottolenghi the Cookbook* (2008)

Writes Barbara: This Yottam Ottolenghi recipe has officially replaced my family's tried and true candied sweet potato dish. The potatoes give plenty of sweetness (duh), and the sweet/savory combination is a crowd pleaser. Also, the recipe is very simple. It serves 8 to 10 as a side dish.

#### Ingredients

- 6 medium sweet potatoes (about 3.25 lbs. total)**
- 5 tbsp.. chopped sage, plus extra for garnish**
- 6 cloves garlic, finely minced**
- 2 tsp. coarse sea salt**
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper**
- 1 cup heavy cream**

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Wash the sweet potatoes (do not peel them) and cut them into thin disks, 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick. A mandoline is best for this job, but you could use a sharp knife.

In a bowl, mix together the sweet potatoes, sage, garlic, salt, and pepper.

Arrange the slices of sweet potato in a deep, medium-size ovenproof dish by taking tight packs of them and standing them up next to one another. They should fit together quite tightly so you get parallel lines of sweet potato slices (skins showing) along the length or width of the dish. Throw any remaining bits of garlic and sage from the bowl over the potatoes.

Cover the dish with aluminum foil, place in the oven, and roast for 45 minutes.

Remove the foil and pour the cream evenly over the potatoes.

Roast, uncovered, for a further 25 minutes. Stick a sharp knife in different places in the dish to make sure the potatoes are cooked. They should be totally soft.

Serve immediately, garnished with sage,

or leave to cool down. In any case, bringing the potatoes to the table in the baking dish, after scraping the outside clean, will make a strong impact.

### AMBROSIA

From writer and wordsmith Richard May

In my family, we had this dish only at Thanksgiving, after dinner but before the pie. You always had to "wait awhile" for dessert but not for ambrosia.

#### Ingredients (1 cup of each)

- Cool Whip**
- Sour cream**
- Pineapple chunks**
- Mandarin orange segments**
- Green seedless grapes, cut in half**
- Sweetened coconut flakes**
- Mini marshmallows**
- Maraschino cherries**
- Chopped pecans**

Mix Cool Whip and sour cream in a large bowl.

Add coconut flakes, marshmallows, and pecans.

Gently fold in fruit.

Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Serve cold.

### EASY CRANBERRY BREAD

From veteran journalist Corrie M. Anders and original ad manager and teacher Carla Anders

This is a recipe that Carla used in her classroom as a Thanksgiving baking project with her students since she began teaching in 1970. The creator of the recipe is not known.

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups flour**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder**
- 3/4 cup orange juice**
- 1 egg, beaten**
- 1/4 cup butter (half a stick)**
- 1-1/2 cups raisins**
- 1-1/2 cups fresh cranberries, chopped**

Mix the flour, sugar, and baking powder. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Add the egg and orange juice and stir till moist. Fold in the raisins and cranberries. Pour into a greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until the center is done.

### DONNA BROWN'S JOE'S SPECIAL

From editor and co-publisher Sally Smith

This recipe was one I took home to Alexandria, Va., from my first trip to San Francisco. I was visiting a close friend from high school who'd moved here in the early 1970s, following her parents' move to the Bay Area a few years earlier. Her mother, Donna, who adopted me as her own, served the "original" Joe's Special when I went to dinner at their house in Walnut Creek. The rest is history. Now I am hugely fat... No. But I could be if I made this as often as I'd like to. It's the ultimate in comfort food.

#### Ingredients

- 2 packages frozen spinach (10-12 oz.), or 8 cups fresh spinach (6 oz. bag)**
- 1 lb. ground beef (or 1 lb. tofu, drained and cubed)**
- 1 large onion, finely chopped**
- 1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced**
- 1 cup sour cream (I use half and it's just as good)**
- 1½ tsp. Italian herb seasoning**
- Nutmeg, a sprinkling**
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (I now use half)**
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (half is plenty)**

Thaw (or cook) spinach, drain, and set aside. Sauté ground beef in a big skillet until it turns light brown. Add onion and mushrooms and cook until most of the liquid is gone.

Stir in sour cream, spinach, seasoning, nutmeg, and ½ cup each of cheddar and Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top.

Serves 6. Great for dinner or breakfast.