



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## J-Church Plan Switches Gears

Stop Removal May Change From 30th to 29th Street

By Matthew S. Bajko

In response to neighborhood complaints about plans to eliminate the inbound 30th Street J-Church stop, city transit staffers have dropped the proposal and are now looking at removing the inbound stop at 29th Street. The idea is part of a package of changes intended to speed up service on the line, which runs both underground and on surface streets through Noe Valley.

Yet axing the 29th Street stop has also elicited complaints, as has a plan to remove 14 parking spots along the Church Street corridor in order to improve pedestrian safety. The spaces marked for removal, referred to as “daylighting” by transit planners, would be at or near intersections to make it easier for vehicle drivers to see pedestrians.

Nearly 30 businesses on outer Church Street have signed a petition calling for both the J-Church stop and the parking to remain. They fear their removal would drive their customers away.

“People complain all the time that the parking is difficult there. Losing those spaces is going to really hurt,” said petition signer Gary Craddock, who with his wife co-owns Mobu Dance Studio and KitchenSync.

Upper Noe Neighbors President Olga Milan-Howells agrees that the removal of the parking spaces would be a “terrible situation” for the small business owners in the area.

“We really do want to help our small

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**The Heart of the Matter.** Green Twig Salon at 1299 Church St. often uses its sandwich board sign for witty and insightful messages. This offering from 2019 used a basic visual to commemorate the season. Photo by Jack Tipple

## Signs of a Peace Movement

55 Years Ago, Neighbors Came Together to Protest War

By Matthew S. Bajko

Three days into 2020, the fear of America going to war in the Middle East flared anew when President Trump ordered the killing of Iranian General Qassem Suleimani as the military leader was visiting Iraq. The assassination led to street protests in San Francisco and across the country, as people called for an end to U.S. bellicosity.

Nearly six decades ago, similar scenes played out as Americans protested the country’s going to war in Vietnam. In Noe Valley, a group of neighbors came together in 1964 to organize against then-President Lyndon B. Johnson. They demanded Johnson pull U.S. troops out of the Southeast Asian country.

Calling themselves Noe Valley Citizens Against the War, they created a pamphlet out of a single sheet of paper folded in half, and on its cover printed the words *Concerned Citizens Ask: Why the War in Vietnam?*

Inside, rather than deliver a precise answer, the flier listed 10 questions about U.S. military intervention in the country, which was then split between the communist north and the American-allied south. The first asked if people felt truly informed about why American forces were fighting there in the first place. The sixth posed the question, “Why aren’t we winning the War?” The penultimate queried, “Do you suppose this war in South Vietnam could develop into a nuclear war?”

Lastly, the pamphlet questioned, “Is

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**Friendly Takeover.** Kristen Gianaras McCaffery and husband Mike McCaffery huddle near the entrance to their new business venture: they are transforming the former Noe’s Cantina at 24th and Church streets into a new and as yet unnamed restaurant and bar. Photo by Beverly Tharp

## Gianaras and McCaffery Take Over Famed Corner

New Venture to Coincide With Birth of Their First Child

By Matthew S. Bajko

Ownership of the building at the corner of Church and 24th streets has changed hands between two families that each have a storied history of restaurant ownership in the neighborhood.

In early January, Kristen Gianaras McCaffery and her husband, Mike McCaffery, closed escrow on the property at 1199 Church St., and are now in the process of opening a new restaurant at the prominent site. It will be the couple’s first restaurant, while the second for Gianaras McCaffery, who co-owns NOVY with her sister, Kathryn Gianaras.

The siblings opened their Greek-inspired restaurant at 4000 24th St. in March 2015. The site was where their parents, John and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



OPENSFHistory



**Fueling the Valley.** This photo shows 1749 Church Street in 1951. Gene Paridy's Chevron Service Station, situated on the southeast corner of Day and Church, was replaced by a four-unit apartment building in 1961. Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher

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—Michael Jordan

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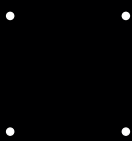
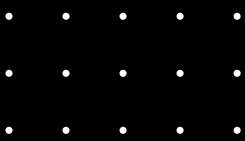
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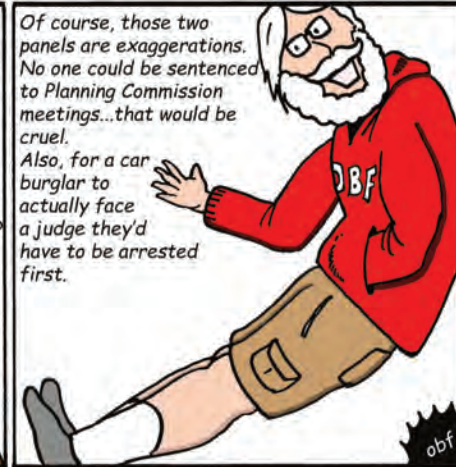
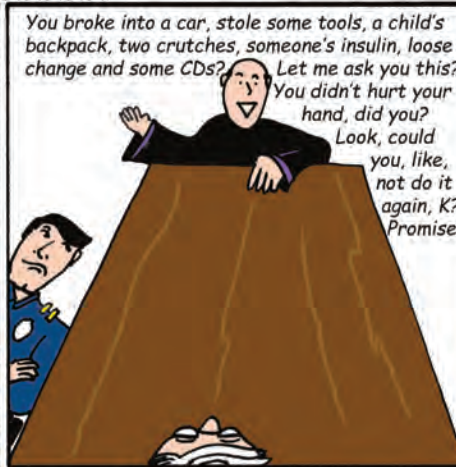
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## THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN

**LAW & ORDER: NOE (DUHN-DUNNNNNNNNN)**



## LETTERS

### Lights Need to Be Timed Out

Editor:

I am stunned and incredulous that a neighborhood as enlightened and theoretically environmentally concerned as Noe Valley is embracing completely wasteful decorative lighting on 24th Street year round. It's one thing to live it up during the month-long holiday season, but with climate change destroying our world, the strings of lights send the wrong message.

I hope whoever is responsible will consider the bigger picture and remove them.

Susan Alexander

### Homelessness a National Issue

Editor:

Our nation has over 550,000 homeless people. 150,000, or just over 27 percent, of homeless people live in California. Since the 1980s, the federal government has been reducing entitlements and weakening the social safety net, like the recent executive order to cut SNAP benefits. HUD is funded at its lowest levels in decades.

If the 9th Circuit Court ruling intends that

California carry the burden of the nation's social safety net—providing housing, mental health services, food, job training, and medical care—we need money to cover the extraordinary burden on our state and local budgets.

California has a housing shortage. It is extremely expensive to build here. Average citizens have lost access to public space and funding for local programs. In this situation, no one's needs are being met, producing a state of social instability and moral confusion.

As California has the lion's share of the nation's homeless, the federal government should give California money to address the issue. Housing the homeless needs to be addressed nationally.

It has been estimated that it would cost \$12.7 billion to end homelessness in the nine Bay Area counties. For \$90 million, you could offer a \$3,000 housing subsidy for all of the Bay Area's 30,000 people needing homes. With a \$3,000 federal subsidy, one could rent a studio apartment for six months—if not in California, then in Alabama, Ohio, Michigan, or elsewhere.

There are myriad causes for homelessness, and myriad solutions. Californians are known for thinking outside the box. Perhaps, this time we need to think outside the state.

Kate Haug

### Back Alzheimer's Research

Editor:

In this new year, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our congresswoman, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, for supporting legislation in 2019 to better the lives of 670,000 Californians living with Alzheimer's, including 18,000 San Franciscans, my mother among them. My mom was a longtime Noe Valley resident when she was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2014. Pelosi's support helped the more than 1.6 million Alzheimer's caregivers statewide who devote over 1,846 million hours of unpaid care annually. The Alzheimer's Association was able to win a \$350 million increase for Alzheimer's research at the NIH and \$10 million to strengthen our nation's public health response to Alzheimer's.

We'll be looking for Congress' continuing support this year. You'll find me knocking on the door soon with our 2020 priorities. And I won't be alone—over 200 California Alzheimer's Association advocates will be at the State Capitol for Advocacy Day in February, and more than 1,200 advocates from across the country will hit Capitol Hill in March.

Thank you again for a great 2019, Speaker Pelosi, and I look forward to your continued support in 2020!

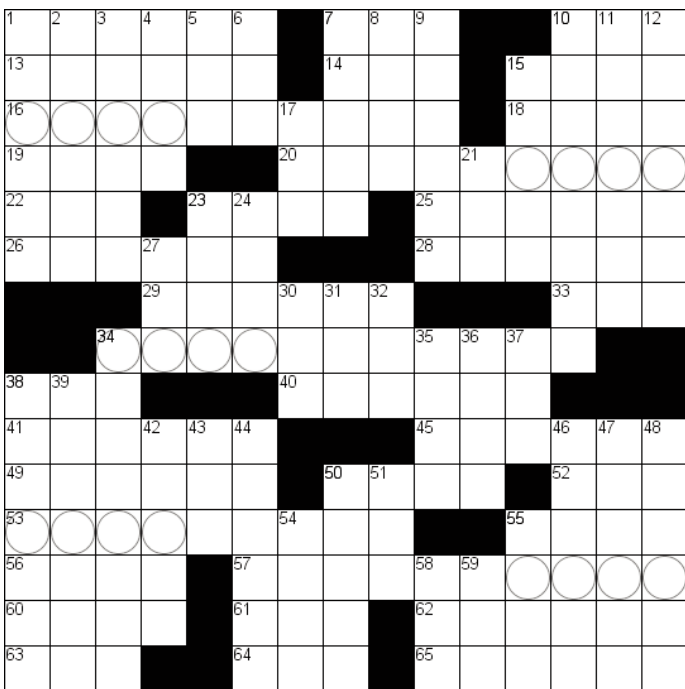
Maxwell Wallace

## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Jumble-aya

ACROSS

1. Mother superior, at times
7. "Foucault's Pendulum" author Umberto
10. "Today Show" rival, for short
13. Cajoles
14. Grand Coulee, e.g.
15. Like most colleges, but not Mills
16. Lube supply at Noe Valley Auto Works
18. Tiny dot on a map
19. Just-okay grades
20. Frequent Yo-Yo Ma collaborator
22. Kind of verb: Abbr.
23. Store chain with an "Off Fifth" near Fifth and Market
25. Type of skates
26. "\_\_\_ on TV"
28. Like Coke bottles and Campbell's soup cans
29. "Ed Wood" Oscar winner Martin
33. Whirlpool alternatives
34. 24th Street purveyor of international goods, and the inspiration for this puzzle
38. Neighbor of Leb.
40. Money a home buyer may leave at Old Republic Title
41. "In other words"
45. Morning and afternoon of mud baths and massages, say
49. Utter, biblically
50. With "Biz," a 24th Street footwear outlet
52. Angry mood
53. "Roots" writer
55. Partner of Rock
56. "I \_\_\_ Little Prayer" (Warwick tune)
57. Difficult skating feat



60. French versions of 18-Across
61. Many, many years
62. "Sure, have it your way"
63. "Half Time" rapper
64. U-turn from SSW
65. Conked on the head

DOWN

1. Gum arabic tree
2. Alternatives to briefs
3. Hay-bundling machines
4. "All My \_\_\_ Live in [42-Down]"
5. Line part: abbr.
6. Armenia or Azerbaijan, once: Abbr.
7. Red-wrapped cheeses
8. With "Mexicana," a 24th Street eatery
9. Subtitle to the 1978 film "Damien"

10. Baby geese
11. One-named singer of "Brand New Key" 1971
12. Madison Avenue "suits," for short
15. Spanish sky
17. "A mouse!"
21. Duke rival, for short
23. Elite U.S. Navy soldier
24. "Frozen" princess
27. \_\_\_ Ela: nail salon on Guerrero
30. Run out, as a battery
31. Morning hours: Abbr.
32. Product stripes: Abbr.
34. Superman's penetrating feature
35. "In that range"
36. 1948 Hitchcock film that looked to have been filmed in one shot

37. Pan Am rival
38. "\_\_\_ to kill a mockingbird": Atticus
39. Clinton Cabinet member Donna
42. "All My [4-Down] Live in \_\_\_"
43. It's like "like"
44. \_\_\_ Island (New York City borough)
46. Dangerous compound in Agent Orange
47. Dahl or Francis
48. Hollered
50. Paris river
51. Right triangle part: Abbr.
54. "Dianetics" author Hubbard
55. Nadal's nickname
58. Easy throw
59. Rhyme of 17-Down

**Solution on Page 22**  
Find more Crosswords at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

## Carol Aust

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# Bumps in the Road For J-Church Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

merchants,” she said. “They are what makes the neighborhood walkable and safe.”

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s board is expected to vote on the plan, known as the J-Church Improvement Project, sometime this spring. Meanwhile, the transit agency’s staff is continuing to fine-tune it, based on community feedback.

Some quick fixes SFMTA has proposed for speeding up the J line have not generated as much opposition, such as turning the four-way stop at Cesar Chavez and Church streets into a traffic light stop. The timing of the traffic signals along Church Street would be retooled so they’d be more likely to be green when trains arrived.

“It is a small change that should be a benefit for J riders,” said Michael Rhodes, the J-Church project manager for the SFMTA.

## Frequency Forward

J-Church trains, which carry 17,000 riders on weekdays, are supposed to arrive every nine to 10 minutes on weekdays and 15 to 20 minutes on weeknights. On weekends, they should come every 12 minutes. But J trains are adhering to the schedule only 75 percent of the time, the agency says.

To improve the line’s performance, transit planners are investigating whether J-Church trains can go faster than the current 25 miles per hour when traveling along San Jose Avenue to and from the Glen Park BART Station. Also on the drawing board is a quicker method for turning J-Church trains around at Embarcadero Station.

After releasing the initial proposed changes for the J-Church in the fall, the SFMTA heard from 175 people regarding the plan, said Bonnie Jean von Krogh, a public relations officer with the agency. Based on that feedback, the transit planners retooled their initial proposal.

“We took a second look at things and asked are there places we can make updates,” she said. It is possible more tweaks will be made to the plans as the project makes it way through the approval process.

At a meeting of the group Upper Noe Neighbors on Jan. 15, von Krogh and Rhodes stressed they were there to gather more input and would use it to adjust the proposal. Milan-Howells noted, “They are being very open to our concerns.”

## The Stop Around the Corner

In the case of the 30th and Church

# City Approves CBD on 24th St.

Noe Benefit District Renewed For 15 Years

By Matthew S. Bajko

Due to the overwhelming support of property owners along 24th Street, the Noe Valley Association has been renewed for another 15 years, through June 30, 2035.

The community benefit district won the unanimous support of the city’s 11 supervisors when it was revealed at their Jan. 28 meeting that the association had surpassed the votes it needed from the property owners within its boundaries. An affirmative vote was needed from property owners who accounted for more than 50 percent of the assessed fees, which amounted to \$266,060 in 2019.

The Noe Valley Association received

75.9 percent of the weighted ballots. In presenting the matter to his board colleagues, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman said, “Twenty-fourth Street in Noe Valley is one of our most charming neighborhood commercial corridors,” largely due to the “great work” of the CBD.

One of the first such entities in the city, the Noe Valley CBD won approval to form in 2004. It was established in 2005 in order to provide services along the neighborhood’s main commercial strip that the city was not, such as routine sweeping and power-washing of the sidewalks.

The CBD also planted trees, installed hanging flower baskets, and provided street furniture such as benches and chairs for the public parklets along the corridor. The cleaning services and other amenities are paid for by a relatively inexpensive surcharge assessed to each property within the district, which runs along 24th Street from Church to

Diamond Street and along certain side streets.

As the *Voice* noted in September, the CBD is downsizing its jurisdiction by removing the properties at the intersection of 24th and Douglass streets, including the city-owned Noe Courts park, since the area has less foot traffic now than in the past. It does not intend to increase the annual assessment property owners will need to pay, which varies by lot size and can range from several hundred dollars to thousands of dollars for the larger parcels.

The Noe Valley Association had survived the first step in the renewal process in the fall, when the initial ballot sent out to property owners asking if they wanted to extend the life of the CBD netted 33.28 percent weighted support. In that voting, affirmative support was needed from property owners who accounted for at least 30 percent of the CBD’s assessed fees. For information see [noevalleyassociation.org](http://noevalleyassociation.org).

Street stop, the transit planners have incorporated the community’s preferred change into their latest plan. Rather than eliminate the stop, they’ve changed where trains would pick up and drop off riders at that intersection.

Currently, the inbound J-Church first comes to a stop on 30th Street at a stop sign and then turns right onto Church. It then immediately stops to offload passengers and pick up commuters headed downtown.

As the *Voice* reported in December, community members had proposed that the J-Church pick up and let out riders on 30th Street instead. The neighbors noted that the traffic stop there already is a designated stop for inbound 24-Divisadero buses, so it would make sense if it were also the stop for the J-Church.

Transit staff took the idea under advisement and incorporated it into the plan. At the same time, the planners decided the inbound J-Church stop at 29th and Church should be removed, since it is only a short walk from the stop at 30th Street. The wheelchair-accessible stop at Day Street and Church would remain, with trains stopping there only when needed.

## What About Valley Street?

When the plan was presented in January, however, merchants and residents voiced opposition to removing the 29th Street stop. Several suggested the stop should instead be relocated to the intersection of Valley and Church streets, as it would be spaced three blocks away from the two nearest stops. That spacing, pointed out J-Church rider Will Segen, was typical for the stops along Church

Street.

Rhodes noted that doing so would slow down inbound J-Church trains, because the line would have an added stop at Valley Street. Currently, trains glide through that intersection because there is no stop sign there.

Others pointed out because there is a stop sign at 29th Street the trains would still have to stop there, so there would be no time saved by removing the stop. As it is, they argued, it doesn’t take long for passengers to disembark or catch the trains there.

Questions were also raised about how making it more difficult for people to find parking, likely resulting in drivers double-parking in order to run into a busi-

ness, would be safer for pedestrians.

“Once again, the MTA is tone-deaf to our needs,” said Ozzie Rohm with the Noe Neighborhood Council. “Our commercial districts are experiencing the worst crisis and the MTA is adding to it by making it more difficult for people to access these shops and stores. Taking away parking spaces near laundromats and fledgling businesses along Church Street does not serve the public, nor does it serve the merchants.” (Danny’s Cleaners and Coin Wash & Dry are both located in the 1700 block of Church near 29th Street.)

To follow the plans for the J-Church, visit [sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project](http://sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project).

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**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. Meeting Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Umpqua Bank, 3938 24th St.

**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 (FUND OG)**

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, M17-6290  
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., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

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

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
Meetings: 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@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.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.

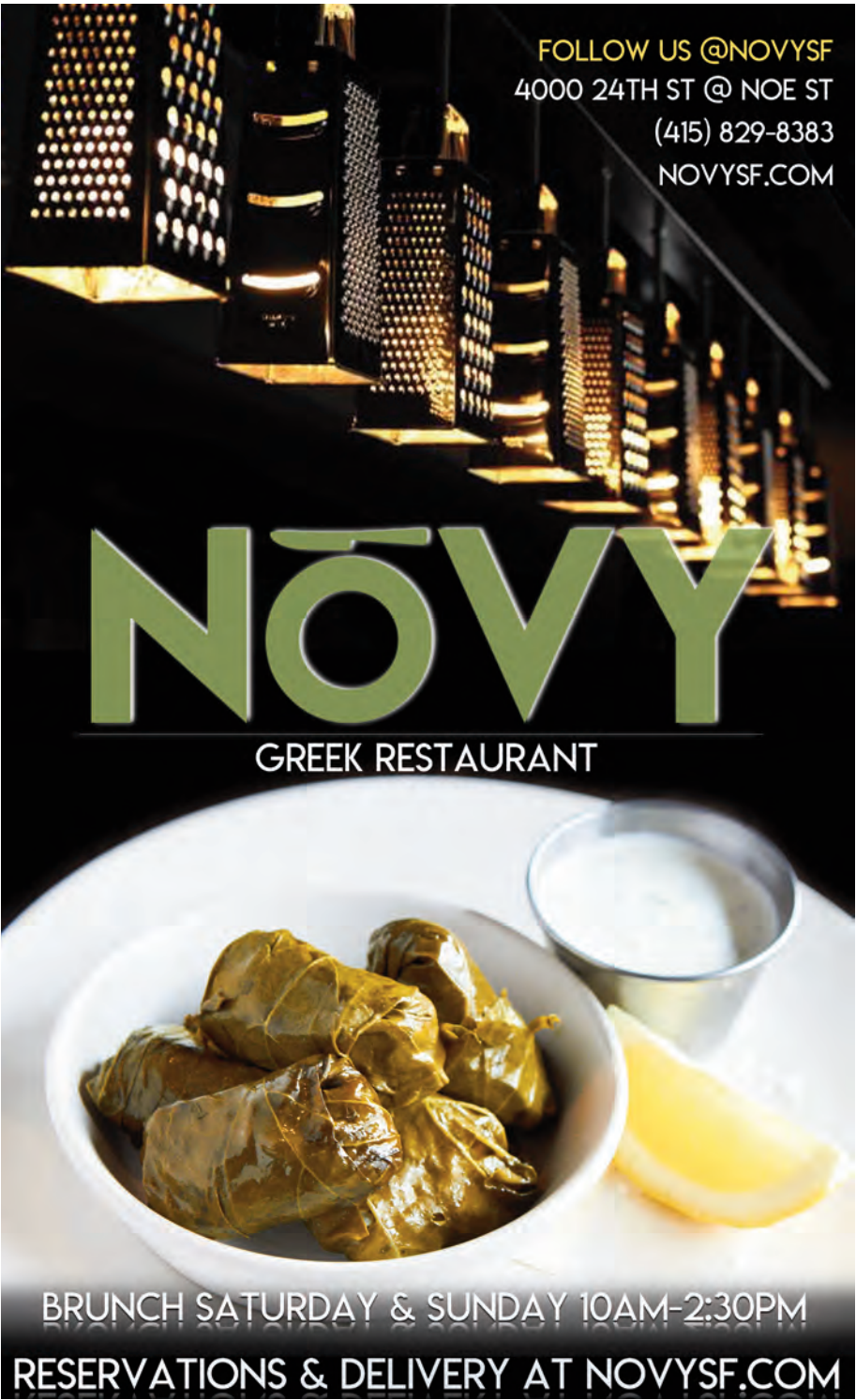
**Stand Up San Francisco**

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.



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# New Restaurant to Fill Noe’s Cantina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vi Gianaras, had operated the beloved Greek restaurant Panos for nearly 20 years. In 1997, the family leased the space to Pasta Pomodoro but decided not to renew the local chain’s lease in the fall of 2014 in light of the sisters’ decision to go into the restaurant business.

Gianaras McCaffery will continue to be a co-owner of NOVY and assist with its back-of-the-house management but will focus more of her time on the new restaurant. She and her husband purchased the property for an undisclosed amount from the Basso family, which for decades had operated a sports bar and eatery there that locals knew simply as Noe’s.

In 1980, Wayne Basso bought the Connection tavern and reopened it as Noe’s Ark. For years the adjacent restaurant space had been a Cybelle’s Pizza until becoming an in-house grill of Noe’s. But in 2015 the Basso family shuttered the business and sold it to a pair of entrepreneurs who reopened the upscale Horner’s Corner.

It lasted 18 months, followed by Hamlet, which closed its doors within two years. At that time, Wayne Basso had planned to sell the property, but his son, Tommy Basso, decided to open a restaurant of his own there and quietly launched Noe’s Cantina in December of 2018.

Taking a minority stake in the restaurant and helping craft its Mexican menu was Liam Mayclem, a local media personality, and his husband, Rick Camargo, who also live in the neighborhood. But within a year they shuttered the business, and the Bassos approached Gianaras McCaffery and her husband in mid-December about buying both the property and the business. “We had our ears to the ground in case

there was an opportunity that came up. We were looking for a location with a full liquor license,” said McCaffery. “They knew we were looking. It all came together really quickly.”

### Baby Comes Before Bistro

The Gianaras McCafferys have applied to transfer the liquor license to their name and hope the state’s Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control completes the process before April. With the couple also expecting the birth of their first child that month, which Gianaras McCaffery joked was their “other small project,” the new restaurant is not likely to open until June.

“We are hoping to carve out a month to spend time with and bond with our child,” said Gianaras McCaffery, adding that they are planning “to be surprised about the gender.”

The expectant parents, who live in Noe Valley and started dating six years ago, tied the knot 18 months ago. McCaffery, 33, grew up in San Mateo, while Gianaras McCaffery, 34, was raised in the neighborhood. Although they were in the same class at St. Ignatius College Preparatory, they didn’t know each other at the private San Francisco high school.

They met in 2012, when Gianaras McCaffery and her sister sought work at the recently opened Mission Rock Resort, in the city’s Mission Bay neighborhood, so they could learn the ins and outs of running a restaurant. They were friends with the owners, the Osborne family, whose children they knew from school, as was McCaffery, who had helped open the restaurant that year.

The hands-on experience and advice the sisters received from the Osbornes and their staff served them well at NOVY, said Gianaras McCaffery. “We tried to do a little bit of everything. We bussed tables, ran food, and we served customers,” she said, adding, “I am really proud of the family

that we have created at NOVY with our employees and our customers.”

As for opening a second eatery just blocks away, Gianaras McCaffery believes the two restaurants will benefit from the success of both, and lift up other nearby businesses by drawing more foot traffic to the neighborhood.

“I am excited to provide more jobs and a place for Noe Valleyans to go hang out and have fun. I think it is going to be really awesome,” she said. “I think a lot of people operate with a mindset of scarcity. That is not how we like to think. There are a lot of people in this neighborhood and not a lot of options for them to go to.”

The couple have long talked about going into business together. Having worked in recent years for a medical device company, McCaffery was interested in pivoting back to the restaurant industry.

“We always dreamed of having an opportunity of doing something together in hospitality. When this opportunity came up, it was kind of crazy but was perfect timing for us,” he said.

### A Noe- and Family-Friendly Menu

At the Voice’s print deadline, the couple had yet to decide on a name for their restaurant but planned to incorporate a family name into the moniker. They are planning a menu that leans toward affordable bistro fare and hope to create an environment that is family-friendly.

“We want to represent classic American food with some original San Francisco specialties. It will be a neighborhood restaurant and bar where people can expect to get a well-made drink and a great plate of food,” said McCaffery. “The food is going to be recognizable but done at a high level and a consistent level.”

When they open, they will start out with nightly dinner service, expanding to brunch on the weekends and then weekday lunch hours as their staff gels and gets



The recently shuttered Noe’s Cantina will likely remain a fixture in the neighborhood. A family of restaurateurs with a long presence in Noe Valley is taking over.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

into its own rhythm. And taking a lesson she and her sister learned at NOVY, Gianaras McCaffery says she has stressed to her husband that they will need to be willing to adjust their menu based on feedback from their customers.

“We have to really be fluid. We opened with one concept at NOVY, that it would be a casual burger joint with one menu all day. But the neighborhood told us, ‘We want Greek food,’ so we adapted,” she said. “Our menu evolved a ton over the next couple of years. We take the feedback we get seriously.”

As for the main lesson she learned from her parents about co-owning a restaurant with your spouse, keeping open a line of communication is key, she said.

“My sister and I have worked on that a ton, and I plan to do that with my husband,” said Gianaras McCaffery. “If we work hard and really listen to the feedback we get and are willing to adjust, that is how we will find our success.”

As for McCaffery, he is excited to offer another dining option for people in Noe Valley.

“We love living in Noe Valley and being a part of this neighborhood,” he said. “We are committed to providing a great place for our neighbors.” ■



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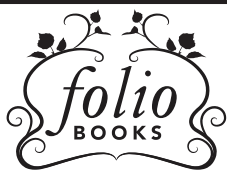
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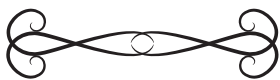




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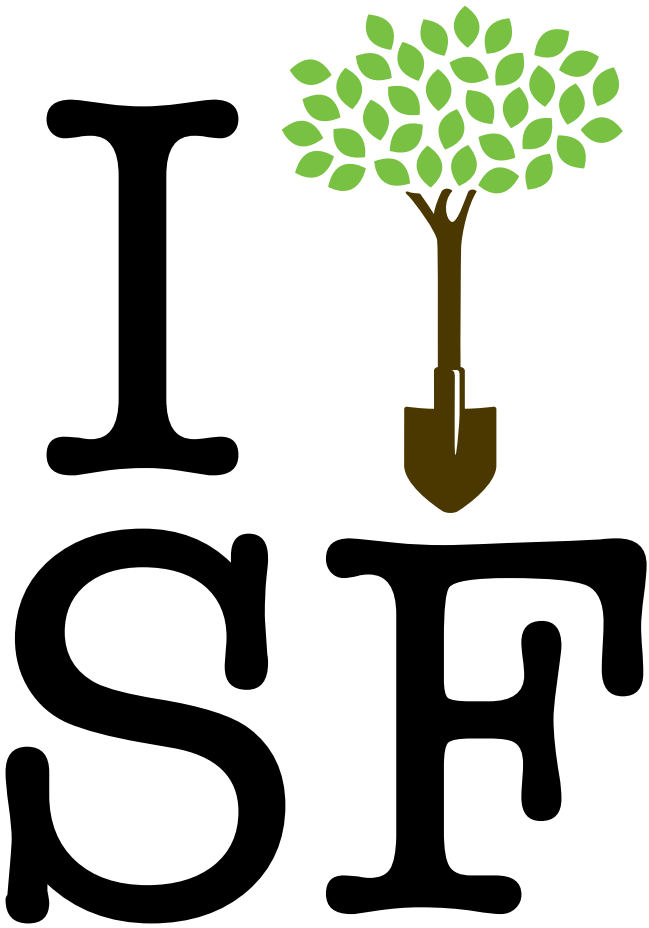
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# Our Readers Write



**Raymond Solis** donned a sarong out of respect for the Lempuyang Temple in Bali, Indonesia while catching up on his hometown newspaper in January.



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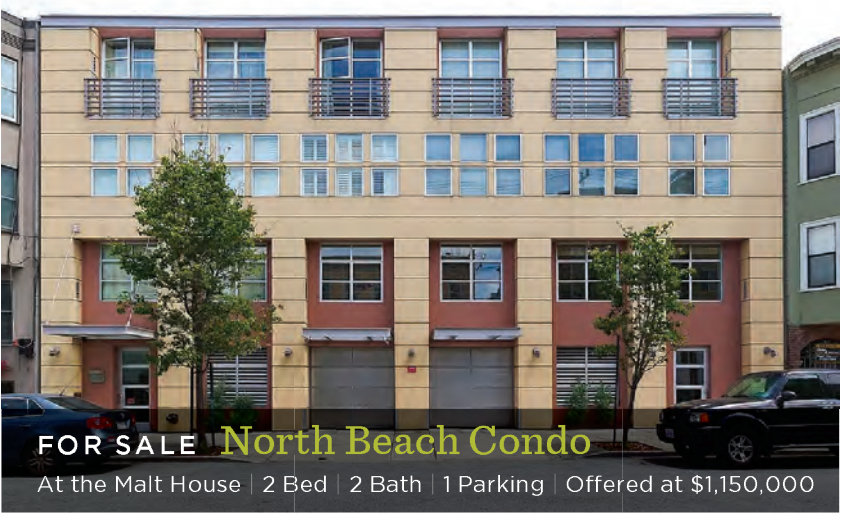


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# Pioneers in a Peace Movement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there an alternative?”

Thirteen people from eight families produced the handout, as they believed there was an alternative to armed conflict. On the back side of the pamphlet was information about their group forming in Noe Valley to protest the Vietnam War.

(The war officially began Nov. 1, 1955. Similar to today’s conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the country’s fight against North Vietnam dragged on for years and didn’t come to an official end until 20 years later.)

In addition to a phone number that is unrecognizable today—MA 1-9694—the flier listed the home addresses of the peo-

ple behind it. Several resided on the 500 block of Castro Street in what was then known as Eureka Valley, with others living on Homestead and Elizabeth streets in Noe Valley.

“I’ve always admired the soft-sell Socratic approach to this leaflet, as opposed to slogans and prose which attempt to do the reader’s thinking for them. Note that they were naive enough to put their addresses on the leaflet,” pointed out Eric V. Kirk, whose parents, uncle, and late aunt were among those who created the pamphlet.

### Radical Roots

Eric’s father, Keith Kirk, 83, and his uncle, Neil Kirk, 86, grew up in a radical family, with Communist leanings. They were born in San Francisco and then moved around the country before returning to the city in 1949. By the 1960s, Neil



The Voice asked Neil Kirk (left) and brother and sister-in-law Keith and Ethel Kirk to reflect on their early days in the anti-war movement in San Francisco. Photo by Matthew S. Bajko

**A group is now forming in Noe Valley for political action in protesting this War. You and I should not sit by idly while our rights are being ignored by our elected representatives. We must protest this policy of undeclared war against a country that just wants its independence.**

**Will you join us?**

**For Information Phone MA 1-9694**

GORDON S. COOK	86 Homestead St.
MARILYN COOK	86 Homestead St.
ACE DELOSADA	428 Hill St.
GAYLE FIGUEROA	593 Castro St.
JOSEPH F. FIGUEROA	280 Diamond St.
JOHN GARDNER	1840 Turk St.
EMMETT HALL	1839 - 18th Ave.
ETHEL KIRK	593 Castro St.
EVELYN KIRK	54 Homestead St.
KEITH KIRK	593 Castro St.
NEIL KIRK	54 Homestead St.
SYLVIA POWELL	1542 Church St.
ROBERT T. WINKLEY	779 Elizabeth St.

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?**

**SOME HARD  
QUESTIONS...**

Noe Valley Citizens Against the War in Vietnam began leafletting the neighborhood in 1964, using a single-sheet flier that openly listed their members’ names and addresses.

Kirk was living on Homestead Street in Noe Valley, while his brother Keith and his wife, Ethel, were residing near the corner of Castro and 19th streets.

Ethel Kirk was also born in San Francisco. Her family lived on 24th Street in Noe Valley. She graduated from college in 1961 and spent time in Central America but returned to the city in 1962 after her father died, and worked as a public school teacher.

She met her husband through mutual friends. In the 1960s, the Kirk brothers were working as carpenters on the UC Berkeley campus and attending teach-ins at the East Bay university. They were what motivated them to organize their neighbors against the Vietnam War.

“I was personally outraged about the

war,” recalled Neil Kirk, who joined his brother and sister-in-law for lunch in early January at a Sausalito café to talk to the Voice about their anti-war pamphlet and organizing. “I called up my brother, sister-in-law, and our friends, and we had a meeting to form the committee. Then we went door to door.”

“Who is this *we*?” interjected Ethel Kirk, 86, as she pointed out she did most of the knocking on doors. Their efforts weren’t very successful, she recalled.

“Let’s just say we met only one person going door to door,” she said. “Most of the people would take the pamphlet, say thank you, and shut the door.”

Similar to today, with politicians able

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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# SHORT TAKES

## A Plate of Valentine's Ideas

If you're looking for something special to share on Valentine's Day, Terra Mia Ceramic Studio, at 1314 Castro St., just might have the answer. On Valentine's Day, from 6 to 9 p.m., you and your sweetheart can design mugs or plates or some other objet d'art, have it fired, and keep it forever. Terra Mia is supplying chocolate treats but suggests if you'd like to bring wine, feel free. Your \$50 deposit will reserve a table. Call 415-642-9911.

To share Valentine's with your children, what better way than to attend a Charlie's Corner story time? The storytellers at the bookstore, at 4102 24th St., will read tales about love, friendship, family, and helping others, at 10 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and 5 p.m., on Valentine's Day.

For chocolate, you can't go wrong at Chocolate Covered, 4069 24th St. You'll find chocolates, truffles, and bars from all over the world. The store is open 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Valentine's Day.

Flowers? Pick out a bouquet at Flowers of the Valley, at 4077 24th St., or the French Tulip flower shop at 3903 24th St.

## Music for Australia

The Australia bushfires of recent months have displaced tens of thousands of humans. They've also killed an estimated billion birds, koalas, kangaroos, and other animals. Though it's going to take a global effort to restore the injured populations, Anthony Albrecht and Simone Slattery, two Australian musicians, hope their music can be part of the recovery.

The string duo—he plays cello and she violin—are bringing their concert, "Where Song Began," to the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Net proceeds from the



Australian musicians Anthony Albrecht and Simone Slattery perform "Where Song Began," a concert to aid wildlife, on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Noe Valley Ministry.

event, as well as from other stops on their North American tour, will be donated to support wildlife affected by the fires.

"Where Song Began" was inspired by the award-winning book of the same name, by ornithologist-activist Tim Low. It has been performed more than 60 times, mainly in Australia.

The concert, which begins in the dark, features the sounds and visuals of the birds of Australia, and the landscapes they inhabit. The birdsong is accompanied by Albrecht and Slattery playing music spanning 300 years—from Schmelzer to Arvo Pärt.

Tickets, available at wheresongbegan.com, are \$30. Light refreshments are by donation. A CD of music from the concert will be available for sale.

## What to Do in a Crisis

Resilient Noe Valley has organized two free events in February to help local res-



**Be Mine:** Noe Valley Pet Company on Church Street won the hearts of its friskiest customers last month by pinning their names on Valentines in the window. Photo by Jack Tipple

idents train to survive and help others in an emergency. Both will take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Personal Preparedness Training for Families will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 to 10 a.m. A team from the Community Youth Center will offer hands-on instruction on a multi-hazard approach for parents and children. Sign up by sending first names and ages to office@noevalleyministry.com. Free childcare will be provided for younger children.

A workshop in Preparedness Training for Seniors will follow on Monday, Feb. 24, also from 9 to 10 a.m. Gain skills to use in an emergency, connect with neighbors, build a support network, and learn whom to contact when an earthquake, fire, or other disaster strikes. The first 15 attendees will receive a free radio/flashlight/phone charger.

For more information, go to empowersf.org/resilient-noe-valley or register by phone: 415-282-2317.

## Opera and Cheese: Delicious!

Veronique Kherian is an attorney, photographer, cheese blogger, and operatic singer. On Saturday, Feb. 29, she will put the last two of those abilities together at "Miss Cheesemonger Sings: An Operatic Cheese-Pairing."

Kherian will sing arias in Italian from Donizetti, Rossini, Handel, Gluck, and Mozart, including her favorite, "Cruda Sorte," from *L'Italiana in Algeri* by Rossini.

"It is just pure fun and the character Isabella is such a strong person," says Kherian, who will be accompanied by Dwight Okamura on piano.

Cheese Plus, from Polk Street, will present artisan cheeses, wine, and "other gustatory surprises." Kherian was a cheesemonger herself at one point and writes a popular blog, www.misscheesemonger.com.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Tickets—\$75 to \$85 in advance, \$95 at the door—are available at Eventbrite and on the blog. As the operatic cheesemonger says, you'll "experience opera and cheese in a whole new whey."

## British Film Fest Insider

Noe Street resident Maxine Einhorn is one of a trio of movie lovers who select films for the Mostly British Film Festival, being held Feb. 13 to 20. She cites one film, *Bait*, as a favorite, because it's "strange and weird, expressionistic, 1920s, black and white," and another because it's about Hampstead Heath, not far from her home in North London. She has an M.A. in film and television from London University.

"We have such a range of film," Ein-

horn says about the lineup. "We span the U.K., Ireland, South Africa, Canada, New



Veronique Kherian returns to the Noe Valley Ministry on Saturday, Feb. 29, to combine gouda with opera in "Miss Cheesemonger Sings."

Zealand, Australia." A documentary from New Zealand, *Merata*, is about the first Maori woman to write and direct a feature film.

This is the 12th year for the festival, which plays at the Vogue Theater on Sacramento Street in Presidio Heights. You can buy tickets at mostlybritish.org or voguesf.com. Individual movies are \$15. A pass for all 26 feature films and documentaries is \$250.

## You're in the Air Force Now

Alvarado Street resident Bill Yenne is a prodigious producer of publications. His latest is *MacArthur's Air Force*, which presents Gen. Douglas MacArthur in his role as a defender and promoter of American air power.

Yenne will read from and discuss the book at a free event on Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. Light refreshments will be served.

Yenne says, "MacArthur is one of the towering figures of World War Two, but

## Time to Book It

Word Week 2020, set to unfold March 14 to 21, promises to be a real thriller.

Richard May, the brains behind the annual festival sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley, says there will be many new faces this year, including *San Francisco Chronicle* columnists Leah Garchik and Ruthe Stein, who will hold forth on journalism and movies March 16, and tech-world insiders Anna Yen (*Sophia of Silicon Valley*) and Jessica Powell (*The Big Disruption*), set to appear March 19.

The week also will host a Noe Poets event (March 14) and a do-it-yourself reading of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (March 15).

Irish writers, bagpipers, and Jameson's whiskey will be playing with words at a special St. Patrick's Day celebration March 17.

On March 18, authors Cara Black, Barbara Ridley, E.R. Ramzipoor, and Mary Jo McConahay tackle the topic "World War II: Women Facing History."

Kids and adults alike are invited to meet popular graphic novelist Judd Winick on March 20.

The final event, on March 21, will be a talk by Jeffrey Thomas Leong, author of *Wild Geese Sorrow: The Chinese Wall Inscriptions at Angel Island*, co-sponsored by Word Week and the Noe Valley Library.

For times and locations—which include Folio Books, Lola San Francisco, Umpqua Bank, Noe Valley Ministry, Olive This and That, and the library—go to friendsnofoevalley.com. To sign up for Shakespeare, try facebook.com/wordweeknoevalley. All events are free. The St. Pat's Day celebration asks a \$10 donation to cover expenses.

—Sally Smith

his leadership of one of the most powerful air forces is often overlooked."

For other upcoming events at Folio Books, scan the *Voice* Calendar or go to foliosf.com. For more about Bill Yenne and his books, go to billyenne.com.



Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

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# Early War Resisters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

to spread false news via social media, back then the government was able to engage in a misinformation campaign via mainstream news outlets, said Neil Kirk.

“Lots of people were confused about what was happening. They didn’t like war,” said Neil Kirk, who now resides in Occidental with his wife Susan. “But they were told if Vietnam fell, it would be a domino effect and it would happen over here.”

## Simple and Inclusive

They specifically wanted to keep their pamphlet simple, said Keith Kirk, and landed on listing the series of questions to encourage people to consider what their convictions were and how they might get to the facts.

“We didn’t want to put out a long-winded list of things for why people should oppose the war,” recalled Ethel Kirk. “One guy said why don’t we do questions and not answer them, just ask them. I think it was pretty effective.”

They printed at least 100 copies. Her only regret, she said, “was we didn’t go to a union printer.”

## First in Noe Valley

It likely wasn’t the first anti-Vietnam leaflet produced in San Francisco, said Keith Kirk, as there were more organized groups that had already formed in the Haight-Ashbury. “It was the first in Noe Valley,” said Neil Kirk.

A copy of a “Community Project Bulletin” compiled by the Vietnam Day Committee dated Aug. 21, 1965, accessible online via the Wisconsin Historical Society, lists just a single group in the Haight and the Noe Valley Citizens Against the War in Vietnam as being ac-

tive in San Francisco.

The item about the Noe Valley committee reported its “current activities” as “door-to-door petitioning to end the war and leafletting of the neighborhood.” It also mentioned that discussion groups were meeting and listed Keith Kirk as one of the contacts.

At its largest, their group had 20 members and it lasted for a few years. They were convinced the FBI had plants at the meetings and were watching the protesters at the demonstrations. At one point, convinced their phone was bugged, Keith Kirk said, they put the phone in the refrigerator to keep their conversation private.

In 1970, the Kirks helped establish the Peace and Freedom Party in the city. They are no longer in touch with any of their fellow anti-war activists, as many sold their houses and relocated. Keith and Ethel Kirk now live in Santa Rosa.

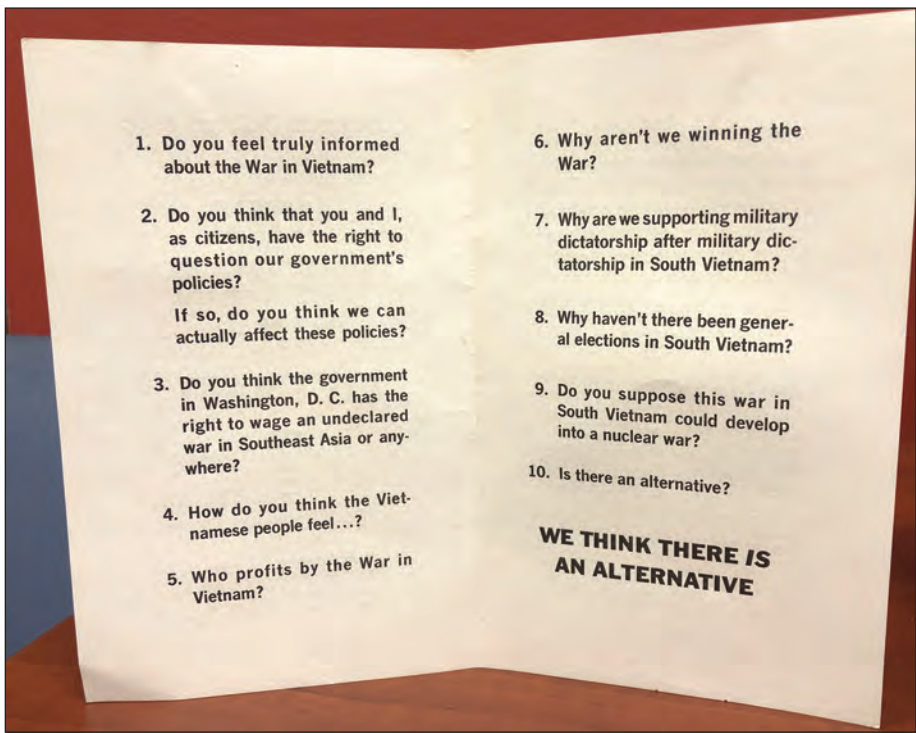
## Today’s Issues Even Bigger

Asked what impact their organizing against the war had, Ethel Kirk responded it was impossible to know for certain.

“It is something you will never know. We were just putting information out there and hoping it was going to stick,” she said. “I like to think we made people at least think about it. Most people were confused over why we were in the war.”

Today, the greatest concern younger generations should be focused on isn’t war, Keith Kirk said, but the harm to the planet wrought by humans’ dependence on fossil fuels. It is a nonpartisan issue, he said, that everyone should care about it.

“Now, the biggest problem is the environment. What we are doing is going to destroy the planet,” he said. “That takes precedence over a lot of things. If you want to get involved today, try to save the planet. That is beyond politics.” ■



The producers of what was Noe Valley’s first pamphlet against the war in Vietnam listed 10 questions, meant to rouse curiosity and a commitment to activism.

## WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

NVV2/2020

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**District 8 Supervisor’s Office** Rafael Mandelman ..... 415-554-6968  
**District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention** Jessica Closson . 415-713-6877  
**Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)** ..... 415-695-2017  
**Hazardous Waste Disposal** / free pickup bulky items ..... 415-330-1300  
**Homeless Services** Street Outreach Services (SOS)..... 415-355-2250  
**Lost or Injured Animals** Animal Care and Control ..... 415-554-6364  
**Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services** sfmayor.org ..... 415-554-7111  
**NERT** (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) ..... 415-970-2022  
**Parking Enforcement** DPT Dispatch ..... 415-553-1200  
**PG&E** Gas or electrical issues ..... 1-800-743-5000  
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—Amy Klobuchar (1960-), U.S. Senator from Minnesota and Candidate for President



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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## \$7.2 Million Home Sale

By Corrie M. Anders

A Jersey Street bungalow built in 1941, which had been transformed into a three-story luxury villa, sold in November for \$7.2 million, according to sales data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Designed by MT Development and Armour Architecture, the renovated property was the most expensive home sold in Noe Valley last year and the neighborhood’s second costliest dwelling on record, behind a Duncan Street property that garnered \$12 million in 2017.

So what did that \$7.2 million-dollar gem look like?

For one, the house was enormous, by local standards. It featured five bedrooms and six baths swimming in 4,670 square feet of space. And beyond having state-



This renovated home on Jersey Street changed hands in November for \$7.2 million, making it the most expensive home sold in Noe Valley in 2019.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

of-the-art heating and cooling systems, the home offered a master bedroom and bath with fixtures brushed in 24-karat gold; an open-plan living area with a limestone-bench fireplace; a gourmet kitchen with custom-milled oak cabinetry, Dacor range, and Italian calacatta marble countertops; a breakfast nook with a walk-out terrace overlooking a landscaped back yard; a media room with wet bar; and last but not least, a two-car garage.

Even with all that, the property, which towers over its neighbors in the 300 block of Jersey between Noe and Castro streets, took about two months to sell, double the usual time in Noe Valley. What’s more, the buyers got their dream house for 6.9 percent less than the seller’s asking price (\$7,498,000).

“You have to find the right buyers for a \$7 million property,” notes Zephyr President and CEO Randall Kostick, who after two decades of making the rounds in the neighborhood should know.

The \$7.2 million house was among only 14 single-family homes closing escrow in Noe Valley in November and December. There were 22 sales during the same two-month period in 2018.

“The buyers are sensing that prices



The “no frills” façade belies the many luxury appointments within this 1913 John Anderson home on Noe Street, which sold in December for \$4,450,000.

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range January 2020	Average January 2020	Average November 2019	Average January 2019
Studio	9	\$2,295 - \$2,950	\$2,629 / mo.	\$2,601 / mo.	\$2,542 / mo.
1-bdrm	30	\$2,280 - \$4,900	\$3,154 / mo.	\$3,296 / mo.	\$3,330 / mo.
2-bdrm	34	\$2,650 - \$12,000	\$4,567 / mo.	\$4,551 / mo.	\$4,368 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$4,000 - \$6,995	\$5,557 / mo.	\$5,805 / mo.	\$6,092 / mo.
4+-bdrm	11	\$5,400 - \$12,995	\$9,194 / mo.	\$11,124 / mo.	\$21,417 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 99 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 9 to 16, 2020. NVV2/2020

Noe Valley Home Sales*						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
December 2019	3	\$1,695,000	\$4,450,000	\$2,703,333	51	106%
November 2019	11	\$1,050,000	\$7,200,000	\$2,798,818	37	103%
December 2018	10	\$1,625,000	\$3,400,000	\$2,196,900	29	109%
November 2018	12	\$1,365,000	\$6,600,000	\$2,663,125	27	104%
Condominiums/TICs						
December 2019	11	\$475,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,467,727	35	107%
November 2019	17	\$800,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,343,235	25	113%
December 2018	1	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	47	100%
November 2018	12	\$865,000	\$2,349,000	\$1,548,917	26	104%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
December 2019	2	\$1,695,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,797,500	60	100%
November 2019	3	\$1,515,000	\$1,828,000	\$1,646,000	40	103%
December 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2018	1	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	46	93%
5+-unit buildings						
December 2019	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 2019	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2018	0	—	—	—	—	—
November 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. NVV2/2020

have dipped a little bit—not a lot—so they are getting pickier,” said Kostick.

December’s costliest property was a four-bedroom, 3.5-bath dwelling in the 900 block of Noe Street between 23rd and Alvarado streets. Buyers paid \$4,450,000, 11.4 percent more than the sellers’ asking price, for the John Anderson (style) home, originally built in 1913.

The house had been renovated to lose the exterior embellishments and enhance the interior living space, totaling 3,320 square feet. Improvements included an open floor plan, gas fireplace, chef’s kitchen with calacatta gold quartz countertops, a “waterfall island/breakfast bar,” floor-to-ceiling glass walls, radiant heat, a wet bar, a home office/gym, two decks, smart-house technology with security cameras, and one-car parking.

### Condomania Continues

Zephyr also reported that 28 condominiums were sold in Noe Valley last November and December, compared with 13 sales during the same months of 2018.

A four-bedroom, 3.5-bath condo was the most expensive attached unit sold in December. The price was \$2.5 million—significantly more than the \$2,198,000 asking price for the home, located in the 100 block of 29th Street between Dolores and Guerrero streets.

With 2,003 square feet of living space on two levels, the remodeled Victorian

featured a deluxe kitchen, radiant heat, one-car parking, a patio with fireplace, built-in security cameras, and parking for one vehicle.

November’s top seller was a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse in the 3600 block of 24th Street between Fair Oaks and Guerrero streets. The buyer paid \$1.9 million, or 19.1 percent beyond the original price (\$1,595,000).

The home featured a sunken living room with a wood-burning fireplace, a modern kitchen with granite countertops, a private patio and garden, a deck with views of downtown San Francisco, and parking for two cars. The townhome was built in 1993.

### A Slice of the City

For those who aren’t flush with the wealth of a Solomon, buying a piece of property in the neighborhood is generally out of the question.

But consider that in December a small condominium sold for the asking price of \$475,000, making it the least expensive sale of the month.

The “bargain” was a studio unit in a 1913 building in the 4300 block of 24th Street, a great location near Hoffman Avenue. The price included a remodeled bath, a new Murphy bed, and 10-foot ceilings, with 334 square feet of living space and a shared back yard—but no parking space. ■

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# NOE KIDS

BY KATIE BURKE

## Sebastian Ortegon, Soccer Player in Training

Sebastian Ortegon is 6 years old. When he turns 7 on April 12, he'll celebrate by having seven friends sleep over at his house.

Sebastian and his sister Sara, who will be 11 in March, live on 29th Street with their mom and dad, Luly Martinez and Enrique Ortegon. Both kids attend San Francisco Friends School on Valencia Street.

Asked what he likes about his sister, Sebastian says, "That she worries so much about me." He never has to worry, he says, because she is always looking out for him.

Sebastian's favorite family activities are playing football with his dad and soccer with his mom at Upper Noe Rec Center. He also enjoys the "tickle monster" game. If Sara is sleeping on the couch, he explains, "and if I make a noise, the tickle monster [Sara] tickles me." Next round, he's the tickle monster.

Sebastian says no one in the family is allowed to use balls in the house. He thinks his parents should amend this rule to allow him to practice sports inside. "The rule could be not playing when you're super close to glass," he offers. "Don't kick balls in the air because then you can break the glass."

Would he want to create his own family someday? "No, because I really like my



Sebastian Ortegon hopes to follow in the footsteps of Brazilian soccer star Pelé. But the younger athlete may choose to play for Mexico. Photo by Art Bodner

own family, and I just want to keep them." He adds, "I think I'll live in Tahoe or something."

For a pet, he would adopt either a hamster named Skittles or a goldendoodle named Sierra. Sierra is the name of his family's current goldendoodle.

Sebastian's favorite type of food is mac and cheese. "I love cheese," he says, "and the mac makes the mac and cheese squishy so you can eat it."

He prefers going out to eat over dining at home. "When you go out to eat," he says, "you can see San Francisco: all the houses, things like that."

His favorite restaurant is Kama Sushi on Church Street, where he orders edamame, avocado rolls, and soft-shell crab. He also likes Happy Donuts, where his family goes on Sundays. They call this

tradition "Domingo": donut + Domingo (Sunday in Spanish).

For school lunches, he alternates between bringing sandwiches or pasta from home and eating the meals the school provides.

"At school, we have this thing called 'chatty lunch' and 'silent lunch,'" Sebastian says. He prefers silent lunch, "because I can enjoy my inner light, and I eat more."

As for what country makes the best food, Sebastian says, "San Francisco." His parents don't want him eating candy. His dad in particular "does not let me eat gum."

Sebastian's favorite class in school is "art...no, physical education." When he and his classmates are playing basketball, "somebody rides a scooter, and you're

trying to throw the ball in their basket while they are trying to scoot away from you."

He says he wants to be a professional soccer player when he grows up, like Brazilian football star Pelé. "He can do a flip and he can score." Sebastian would play for Mexico "because I'm Mexican," he says.

This past Christmas, Sebastian gave his mom and dad a picture of gloves he had drawn, and he gave Sara a fizzy bath bomb. Sebastian says Christmas is the best holiday because "Santa gives you presents. He is very kind."

Asked in December what he thought Santa would bring in 2019, Sebastian said, "A skateboard, because I only ordered one thing. I drew Santa a picture and then a letter," items he left prominently displayed for Santa to find.

If Sebastian met Santa, what would he tell him? "That he's super nice because he bought me a bow and arrow once, because I needed it." ■

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, 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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*Photo by Chris Faust*

Be a Warrior—Get Out and Play!

There’s plenty to do at Upper Noe Rec. Winter classes began Jan. 7, but it is not too late to sign up or to take advantage of free and drop-in classes like Zumba and Pickleball. During Winter Session, the Pilates class for ages 18 and up on Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., is free. Instructor Julia Griffiths, an Upper Noe resident since 2011, welcomes everyone at any level to join in. The class focuses on core strengthening and spinal mobility. Pilates is a body-conditioning routine that seeks to build flexibility, strength, endurance, and coordination. To find out about other classes and events, visit the rec center office at 295 Day St., call 415-970-8061, or go to [noevalleyreccenter.com](http://noevalleyreccenter.com).

**UPPER NOE REC CENTER WINTER SESSION JAN. 7 – MARCH 13, 2020**  
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	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*
Petite Bakers (age 3-6) Drop in or register	10-11 a.m.
Rec-N-Tot Soccer	10-11 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	3:30-5 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.
Tennis - High Performance Juniors (age 9-11)	4-5 p.m.
Jr. Warriors practice 1st & 2nd graders	4-5 p.m.
Jr. Warriors practice Kindergarten	5-6 p.m.
Pilates all levels (18+)	5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE during Winter Session
Tennis beg/intermediate – Youth (ages 9-13)	5-6 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., 6-8:30 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
Volleyball - Girls - Beg. (age 7-9)	4-5 p.m.
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 -12:30 a.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.

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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a column devoted to new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This issue we visit a storybook land sure to please neighborhood children.

**NANCYLAND KIDS**  
3920B 24th St. at Sanchez Street  
415-412-6541  
[www.nancylandkidsandbaby.com](http://www.nancylandkidsandbaby.com)

A winter storm can often be bad for retail businesses, keeping shoppers bundled up at home. Yet Nancy Guettier has a rainstorm to thank for landing her first stand-alone children's store in Noe Valley.

Last July, Guettier had set up her Nancyland—a colorful selection of toys, stuffed creatures, and books—in the back of furniture and gift store When Modern Was, at 4037 24th St. “I planned to be open there just six months,” said Guettier, sharing space with WMW owner Dona Taylor and Karen Johnson, representing Annie Sloan Chalk Paint.

The arrangement presented some logistical issues, however, with parents finding it hard to navigate strollers through the aisles and children wanting to play amid the antique furnishings. When it was time for Guettier to move out by the end of December, it was raining outside and she needed a place to store her inventory.

Knowing that the former Good News magazine shop down the street was sitting vacant, Guettier called the landlord and asked if she could use the storefront. Her phone inquiry led to Guettier signing a one-year lease with an option to renew, and after a quick spruce-up of the interior, Nancyland Kids opened on Jan. 10 at 3920B 24th St.

“It’s good news for me and for the kids of Noe Valley,” said Guettier. She installed a new wood floor and is working to turn the air duct on the ceiling into a rocket ship.

Opening her own store was a logical step for Guettier. She wanted to work close to her 25th Street home and to have an outlet for her children’s books inspired by her three children, Genevieve, Julian, and Jude. She published her first title, *Roy G. Biv Is Mad at Me Because I Love Pink!*, in 2012 and has written four books since.

“My filling a former magazine store is fitting, as my company started with children’s books,” she noted.

The New York native began her professional career in 1990 as a retail visual merchandiser for Gap Inc. in Manhattan. She helped launch the company’s Gap



Nancy Guettier hugs one of the cuddly creatures in Nancyland Kids, which recently found a new home on 24th Street in the former Good News magazine shop. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Kids and BabyGap lines and was then transferred to San Francisco shortly after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

In 2000 Guettier took a job with Williams Sonoma Inc. as its vice president of visual merchandising for Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen. She left in 2015 when she launched her own company called Nancyland to promote her books and move into moviemaking.

She co-wrote the 25-minute, stop-motion animated film *Mermaids on Mars* based on her 2012 book of the same title. It was produced by Emeryville-based Athena Studios and includes five songs written by Guettier, who also plays in a band called FREQ.

The film earned the best animation award at the 2015 Carmel International Film Festival and was screened at numerous film festivals through 2016.

“I want to show it here in the store or in the Town Square for the local kids,” said Guettier.

She used her retail and artistic skills to select the merchandise for Nancyland

Kids. Key for her was keeping things simple for parents, so they didn’t feel overwhelmed by too many choices.

Toys are made in the U.S. or designed by high-quality overseas producers. She carries products from the London-based Sass & Belle, such as nightlights (\$18) in the shape of unicorns, cats, and pandas.

Also for sale are various Dabbawalla backpacks (\$36-\$42) featuring whimsical designs and bright colors. They’re made from a foam material the company touts as being 100 percent toxic-free, washable, degradable, and recyclable.

Among her best-selling items are the Burritos Babies (\$36) from The Little Acorn, a San Francisco-based company founded by her friend and former co-worker at Pottery Barn Kids Bridget Kelly, who lives in Glen Park. The soft, knitted creatures, like Ella the hippo or Ringo the tiger, are swaddled in their own blankets.

“They are great for teaching older kids how to swaddle their newborn siblings,” said Guettier. “Plus, they have a pocket in the back where kids can put a tooth for the Tooth Fairy.”

In February, Guettier is launching a Nancylandkids Club that will offer play-dates, story times, craft-making, and sing-alongs. She is bringing on a woman who had her own nanny company to assist with the offerings, which will start early in the morning prior to the store’s opening. “I am putting in the stroller ramp and updating the bathroom for the kids,” she said.

Guettier also is busy ordering special items for Easter baskets. She thinks her store will be a hit, based on the reactions of kids as they walk by her signboard on the sidewalk.

“It is so cute. I can hear the kids read my sign and get excited when they say ‘Nancyland Kids.’ My store’s success is seen in their smiles,” she said.

Nancyland Kids is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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**Feb. 1:** Learn to knit and crochet at the Noe Valley Library's KNITTING CIRCLE. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 1:** Jessica Battilana introduces *Repertoire: All the RECIPES You Need*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 1:** The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco performs a CONCERT, "Out of the Night." 7:30 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142.

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

**Feb. 1-29:** 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.

**Feb. 1-29:** Upper Noe Rec Center offers free Vinyasa YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Feb. 1-29:** The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION for residents of all nine Bay Area counties, every Saturday of the month, besides the first Tuesday of the month (Dec. 3 & Jan. 7). 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

**Feb. 1-29:** The Haight Ashbury Flower Power WALKING TOUR begins at 10:30 am Tuesdays and Saturdays, and 2 pm Fridays. haightashburytour.com.

**Feb. 1-29:** 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.

• FEBRUARY 2020 •

557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

**Feb. 1-29:** 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.

**Feb. 1-29:** The Randall Museum's close-up of California wildlife, "Meet the ANIMAL KEEPER," happens Saturdays at 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9605.

**Feb. 1-March 5:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts a solo show by artist Thomas Pringle, "Ladies Man." Reception Jan. 9, 6-9 pm. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm (Thurs. until 7 pm), Sat., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

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

**Feb. 2:** Jeff Cioletti discusses *Drink Like a Geek: COCKTAILS, Brews, and Spirits for the Nerd in All of Us*. 2 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 2 & 16:** 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.

**Feb. 2-23:** A free T'AI CHI class at the Noe Valley Town Square is scheduled for Sundays, 9 to 9:50 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Feb. 2-23:** Bring your own mat to a free YOGA CLASS at the Noe Valley Town Square. Sundays, 10-11 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

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

**Feb. 2 & March 1:** The Asian Art Museum offers FREE ADMISSION on the first Sunday of the month, courtesy of Target. 200 Larkin. 581-3500; asianart.org.

**Feb. 3:** Explore the new features of the SFPL's redesigned WEBSITE. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 3:** ODD MONDAYS hosts readings by short story author Nancy Au, novelist Anita Felicelli, and poet Luiza Flynn-Goodlett; free admission and refreshments. 6:30 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; oddmondays.com.

**Feb. 3, 10 & 24:** 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.

**Feb. 3-27:** 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.

**Feb. 4-25:** The Eureka Valley Library tells TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616;

**Feb. 4-25:** 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.

**Feb. 4-25:** 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.

**Feb. 4-25:** John McClean Wolf leads SACRED YOGA Tuesdays at Holy Innocents. 7-8 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. 824-5142; holyinsf.org.

**Feb. 4-26:** The Eureka Valley Library hosts STORYTIME for babies in English and Spanish on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 and Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 4-29:** SF WOMEN ARTISTS exhibit "Out of the Box," a juried all-media show. Reception Feb. 6, 5:30-8 pm; Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm. 647 Irving. 566-8550; sfwomenartists.org.

**Feb. 5:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a craft WORKSHOP to make a felt bird bookmark. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 5 & 19:** Children 4 and up can read to a dog named Herbee at PUPPY DOG TALES. 4:15-5:15 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26:** Charlie's Corner offers children's Spanish

STORY TIMES. 10 am, noon, 3 & 5 pm. 4102 24th. 641-1104; charliescorner.com.

**Feb. 5-26:** AL-ANON meets Wednesdays, including holidays, from 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

**Feb. 5-26:** Chris Sequeira leads free senior QI GONG classes Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com

**Feb. 5-26:** 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.

**Feb. 5 & March 4:** The GLBT HISTORY Museum is free on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; glbthistory.org

**Feb. 6:** 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.

**Feb. 6:** Folio Books hosts readings by Russell Rowland (*Cold Country*) and Bridget Quinn (*Broad strokes*). 6:30 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Feb. 6 & 13:** NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) holds the last two of its six-week disaster preparedness classes, 6 to 9:30 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks. sf-fire.org/training-schedule-registration.

**Feb. 6-27:** The Noe Valley Town Square offers group MEDITATION Thursdays, from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.



FEBRUARY  
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SAT FEB 1	JESSICA BATTILANA • <b>REPERTOIRE: ALL THE RECIPES YOU NEED • 3:00 P.M. FREE</b> Home cooks don't need dozens of cookbooks or hundreds of recipes. They just need one good book, with about 75 trustworthy, versatile, and above all, delicious recipes that can stand alone or be mixed-and-matched into extraordinary meals.
SUN FEB 2	JEFF CIOLETTI • <b>DRINK LIKE A GEEK: COCKTAILS, BREWS, AND SPIRITS FOR THE NERD IN ALL OF US • 2:00 P.M. FREE</b> Sci-fi and fantasy worlds are full of characters who know that sometimes magic happens at the bar. <i>Drink Like a Geek</i> is a look at iconic drinks and the roles they play in our favorite movies, shows, books, and comics. It's also a toast to the geeks, nerds, and gamers who keep this culture alive.
SAT FEB 8	LORI RICE • <b>BEER BREAD: BREW-INFUSED BREADS, ROLLS, BISCUITS, MUFFINS, AND MORE • 3:00 P.M. FREE</b> Lager your loaves, beer your brioche, pale ale your pretzels, dunkel your dough... just pour a pint to bake something extra special. Here are 75 fun recipes that use a variety of beers—golden ales to Belgian blondes, chocolate porters to juicy IPAs—and take baking to the next luscious level.
SAT FEB 15	ELEANOR FORD • <b>FIRE ISLANDS: RECIPES FROM INDONESIA • 3:00 P.M. FREE</b> From acclaimed food writer and world traveler Eleanor Ford comes a vibrant collection of 100 mouthwatering recipes for Indonesian cuisine—from the refined cooking of Java to the spicy heart of Sumatra and the festival foods of Bali. It is an unprecedented culinary celebration of Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago that was once the beating heart of the spice trade.
FRI FEB 28	KATHY GUNST • <b>RAGE BAKING: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF FLOUR, FURY, AND WOMEN'S VOICES • 6:30 P.M. FREE</b> More than 50 recipes as well as inspirational essays, reflections, and interviews with well known bakers and impassioned women including Dorie Greenspan, Ruth Reichl, Carla Hall, Preeti Mistry, Julia Turshen, Pati Jinich, Vallery Lomas, Von Diaz, Genevieve Ko, and writers like Rebecca Traister, Pam Houston, Tess Raffery, Cecile Richards, Ann Friedman, Marti Noxon, & many more.
SAT FEB 29	DARRA GOLDSTEIN • <b>BEYOND THE NORTH WIND: RUSSIA IN RECIPES AND LORE • 3:00 P.M. FREE</b> <i>Beyond the North Wind</i> explores the true heart of Russian food. Recipes for a dazzling array of pickles and preserves, infused vodkas, homemade dairy products such as farmers cheese and cultured butter, puff pastry hand pies stuffed with mushrooms and fish, and seasonal soups showcase Russian foods that are organic and honest.

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MAR 23 - ROBERT REICH  
APR 9 - NAMWALI SERPELL &  
CARMEN MARIA MACHADO  
APR 17 - REMEMBERING OLIVER SACKS  
APR 20 - MIRANDA JULY  
APR 29 - FEMAIL: THE ART OF  
SUSTAINABLE FASHION  
APR 30 - ADDICTED TO TECH  
MAY 7 - JIA TOLENTINO &  
JENNA WORTHAM  
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MAY 19 - JIM CARREY  
MAY 20 - MARY KARR & KAVEH AKBAR  
& MORE...

TICKETS: 415-392-4400 or CITYARTS.NET



## • CALENDAR •

**Feb. 6-27:** Newcomers are welcome at the AL-ANON Literature Discussion, meeting Thursdays at Bethany UMC, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez.

**Feb. 6-27:** Bring your storehouse of knowledge to TRIVIA NIGHT on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

**Feb. 7-28:** Chris Sequeira leads a free Friday KARAOKE for Adults gathering at Upper Noe Rec Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. 295 Day. 970-8061.

**Feb. 7-28:** 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.

**Feb. 8:** LADYBUG GARDENERS work on the Upper Noe Rec Center park grounds on second Saturdays. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. noevalleyreccenter.com.

**Feb. 8:** Seniors from the Castro Senior Center read the second episode of a RADIO PLAY, "The New Country" 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 8:** Lori Rice introduces BEER BREAD: Brew-Infused Breads, Rolls, Biscuits, Muffins, and More. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 8:** "Music for AUSTRALIA: A Concert Raising Funds for the Bushfire Crisis Where Song Began" features violinist Simone Slattery and cellist Anthony Albrecht. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. wheresongbegan.com.

**Feb. 9:** LIEDER Alive hosts its "Winter Journey" gala benefit at

the Noe Valley Ministry. 5-8 pm. 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

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

**Feb. 11:** PFLAG meets at the Women's Building, 3543 18th, on the second Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9 pm. 921-8850; pflagsf.org.

**Feb. 11:** Peter Devine discusses "Spires that Aspire to Inspire: The Story of St. Ignatius Church" at the SF HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 7:30-9 pm. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello. sfhistory.org.

**Feb. 12:** At "AFRI-CRAFTY Tales," ages 5 and older can make paper crafts of the characters. 3-4:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 12:** The GREAT BOOKS discussion group meets from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 13:** BILL YENNE discusses and signs MacArthur's Air Force: American Airpower over the Pacific and the Far East, 1941-51. 6:30 pm. Folio Books. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

**Feb. 13:** SF NEON hosts a "matchbook" walking tour of the Tenderloin and Union Square, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. sfneon.org.

**Feb. 13-20:** The Mostly BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Vogue Theatre, 3290 Sacramento. 346-2228; cinemasf.com.

**Feb. 14:** The Noe Valley Library screens the 1967 French FILM Le Samourai. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 14:** VALENTINE'S DAY Date Night at Terra Mia Ceramic Studio runs from 6 to 9 pm. 1314 Castro. Reserve spots at 642-9911.

**Feb. 14, 21 & 28:** 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.

**Feb. 15:** Eleanor Ford discusses Fire Islands: Recipes from INDONESIA. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 15:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a discussion by JARREL PHILLIPS, "The Souls of Black Folk." 4-5 p.m. 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 18:** Conor Dougherty discusses and signs his book about the HOUSING CRISIS, Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America. 7:30 pm. Green Apple Books, 1231 9th Ave. 742-5833; greenapplebooks.com.

**Feb. 19:** The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION group reads The Library Book by Susan Orlean. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 20:** 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.

**Feb. 21:** Senator SCOTT WIENER hosts a re-election Grassroots Reception with music and special guests, from 5:30 to 7 pm at Cafe du Nord. 2174 Market. RSVP at bit.ly/cafedunordfeb21.

**Feb. 21:** The BOOKWORMS Club (and pizza party) features Ian Lendler discussing The First Dinosaur: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth. 6-7 pm. Folio Books, 3957 24th. RSVP required: 821-3477, tiny.cc/followorms.

**Feb. 22:** RESILIENT Noe Valley offers a free personal preparedness training class for families. 9-10 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; empowersf.org/resilient-noe-valley.

**Feb. 22:** Librarian Francisco Cardona reads from Toni Morrison's 1977 novel, Song of Solomon. 4-5 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 24:** RESILIENT Noe Valley offers a free personal preparedness training class for seniors. 9-10 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; empowersf.org/resilient-noe-valley.

**Feb. 25:** MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. Call ahead to confirm: 558-5400; missionpolicestation.org.

**Feb. 25:** Artists' Television Access screens Last Grave in Dimbaza, a 1974 documentary secretly recorded in South Africa. 6:30-8 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

**Feb. 25:** Carl S. Koehler discusses "Sheriffs and Jails of San Francisco," at the SF HISTORY Association. 7 pm. 2266 California. 881-7342; sanfranciscohistory.org.

**Feb. 28:** Kathy Gunst introduces RAGE BAKING: The Transformative Power of Flour, Fury, and Women's Voices. 6:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 28:** Music group VOLTI performs "Almost Speechless," a concert of songs with few or no words. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez. voltisf.org.

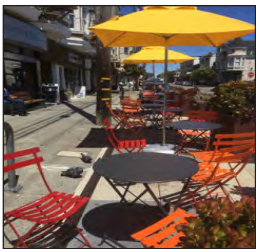
**Feb. 29:** Darra Goldstein discusses Beyond the North Wind: RUSSIA in Recipes and Lore. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

**Feb. 29:** Veronique Kherian performs "Miss CHEESEMONGER Sings: An Operatic Cheese Pairing." 6:30-8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez. misscheesemonger.com.

**March 1, 4 & 7:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts performances by the Aizuri Quartet. March 1, 4 pm; "Up Close & Personal" salon concert March 4, 7:30 pm; Noe Music Kids, March 7, 10:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. nvcm.org.

### March On

The next *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar will appear in the **March 2020** issue. The deadline for items is February 15. Write to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Noe events receive priority.

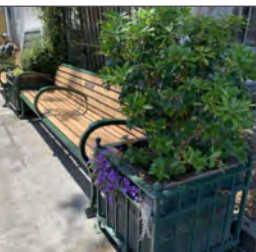
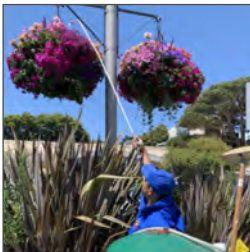


THANK YOU to all of the property owners and merchants who voted to renew the Noe Valley Association Community Benefit District!



Noe Valley Association  
A Community Benefit District  
noevalleyassociation.org

We welcome your feedback and ideas!  
info@noevalleyassociation.org



noe valley  
chamber music

PRESENTS

## THE AIZURI QUARTET

Three opportunities to experience this  
2019 GRAMMY-nominated string quartet  
in their SF debut

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 SUNDAYS AT 4  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 UP CLOSE & PERSONAL SALON  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 NOE MUSIC KIDS



TICKETS AND INFORMATION

www.nvcm.org



ADULT/TEEN EVENTS

**Noe Valley Knitting Circle:** Come knit or crochet on the first Saturday of every month. The library has supplies to practice on but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind. Saturday, Feb. 1; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**The Library’s Redesigned Website:** Explore features of the new and improved website at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org). Monday, Feb. 3; 2 to 3 p.m.

**AAC Conversation Club:** The Alternative and Augmentative Communication Conversation Club helps people with impaired verbal or written communication use devices such as Dynavox, QuickTalker, Tobii Sono Flex, and Talk Bar, and smartphone and tablet applications. For more details, contact Kris Moser at [krismoser@aol.com](mailto:krismoser@aol.com). Feb. 3, 10 & 24; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Felt Bird Craft Workshop:** Make your own felt bird bookmark; materials provided. Space limited, so reservations required: 355-5707. Wednesday, Feb. 5; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Original Radio Play:** Seniors from Castro Senior Center will perform part two of G. Surrogate’s *The New Country*. Look for new episodes on the second Saturday of the month. Saturday, Feb. 8; 3 to 4 p.m.

**Computer and Online Resource Drop-In:** Bring your mobile device or laptop to an informal workshop on using SFPL’s digital resources, including eBooks and eAudiobooks. Tuesday, Feb. 11; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Discuss outstanding works of writing at the **Great Books Discussion 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, Feb. 12; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Friday Film:** The library screens *Le Samourai* (1967), a neo-noir film starring Alain Delon as a professional hitman in Paris. Friday, Feb. 14; 2 to 4 p.m.

**Black History:** In his film and photography exhibit, “The Souls of Black Folk: Joy, Grace, and Glory,” Jarrel Phillips spotlights black culture both in America and the African diaspora, including Haiti, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, and Brazil. Saturday, Feb. 15; 4 to 5 p.m.

**Noe Valley Book Discussion Group:** This month’s selection is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Copies are held at the circulation desk for checkout. Wednesday, Feb. 19; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**The Words of Toni Morrison:** Join SFPL librarian Francisco Cardona in discussing the subtleties of *Song of Solomon*, the 1977 book many consider Toni Morrison’s masterpiece. Saturday, Feb. 22; 4 to 5 p.m.

**Apartheid on Film:** SFPL and Artists’ Television Access co-sponsor a showing of *Last Grave at Dimbaza*, the 1974 film that exposed the shockingly unequal treatment of blacks in South Africa. Tuesday, Feb. 25; 6:30 to 8 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).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Jumble-aya by Michael Blake

A	B	B	E	S	S		E	C	O			G	M	A		
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N	A	S				N	N	E		B	E	A	N	E	D	

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Celebrate Black Culture

The San Francisco Public Library is continuing its citywide celebration “More Than a Month: Black History, Culture, and Heritage” with a multitude of events, including four in February at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

The branch will host a craft workshop where children 5 and up can hear African and African American “How and Why Tales” and create paper characters to tell their own stories, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m. Next, filmmaker-photographer Jarrel Phillips visits Noe Valley on Saturday, Feb. 15, 4 p.m. He’ll share his work illuminating “The Souls of Black Folk: Joy, Grace and Glory.”

A week later, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., SFPL librarian Francisco Cardona invites you to discuss *Song of Solomon*, one of Toni Morrison’s most celebrated novels. Finally, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., the library will screen *Last Grave at Dimbaza*, a 1974 film documenting the ravages of apartheid in South Africa.

For a complete list of the more than 80 free author talks, music performances, art exhibits, craft events, and film screenings—including *Green Book*, *Black Panther*, and *Get Out*, go to the San Francisco Library’s new website at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

To check on books, films, or events at our local branch, call 415-355-5707 or drop by 451 Jersey St. Our library is generally open every day, but note that all San Francisco libraries will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, for President’s Day.

When you visit the Noe Valley branch, help us thank Branch Manager Denise Sanderson and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr, as well as all the staff, for their generosity in providing the *Voice* a monthly selection of new books and films.

—Sally Smith, Editor and Co-Publisher

Adult Fiction

❖ *Nebula Awards Showcase 2019: The Very Best of Science Fiction and Fantasy* is edited by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. The sci-fi anthology has been published for more than 50 years.

❖ Set in rural Trinidad, Claire Adam’s novel *Golden Child* tells the story of twins in conflict.

❖ A former CIA agent is framed and stalked in *The Spy in a Box* by Ralph Dennis.

❖ *The Attempted Murder of Teddy Roosevelt*, a historical thriller by Burt Solomon, makes the reader ask: was it an accident or an assassination attempt?

Adult Nonfiction

❖ *Deer Trails* by San Francisco’s seventh poet laureate, Kim Shuck, evokes the indigenous humans and artifacts underlying today’s urban landscape.

❖ Beverly Willett finds herself after losing her home during the breakup of her marriage, in *Disassembly Required: A Memoir of Midlife Resurrection*.

❖ *Animal*, poetry by Dorothea Lasky, centers on four topics: ghosts, colors, animals, and bees.

❖ Bill Yenne’s *San Francisco’s Noe Valley* tells the story of the neighborhood through historical photographs and descriptive text.

Adult eBooks

❖ In *Recursion* by Blake Crouch, a detective partners with a scientist to try to isolate a false-memory disease that is sweeping the world.

❖ Paula Brackston’s time-travel novel

*Secrets of the Chocolate House* is the sequel to *The Little Shop of Found Things*.

❖ *The More or Less Definitive Guide to Self-Care* by Anna Borges includes health tips, psychological tricks, and shared wisdom on how to live a good life.❖

Former San Francisco 49ers star Jerry Rice shares his memories and insights on playing football in *America’s Game: The NFL at 100*.

Adult DVDs

❖ Set in New England in the 1890s, *The Lighthouse* (2019) follows two lighthouse keepers who try to maintain their sanity on a remote island.

❖ *Biography: Chris Farley: Anything for a Laugh* is a 2019 documentary with commentary by Dan Ackroyd, Gary Busey, and Tom Arnold.

❖ A private detective with Tourette’s syndrome tries to solve the murder of his mentor in *Motherless Brooklyn* (2019), directed by Edward Norton (who also stars).

❖ The 2019 documentary *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* gives the behind-the-scenes story of the long-running Broadway musical.

Children’s Fiction

❖ Princess Alice finds a sleepy dragon holding her lost item in *Have You Seen My Blankie?* written by Lucy Rowland, illustrated by Paula Metcalf. Ages 2 to 5.

❖ A young girl dreams of leading the boys-only hula troupe in *Ho’Onani Hula Warrior*, written by Heather Gale and illustrated by Mika Song. Ages 4 to 8.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

**Afri-Crafty Tales:** Hear an African origin tale, and then dream up your own origin story using paper crafts to re-create the characters that animate the tale; for kids ages 5 and older. Wednesday, Feb. 12; 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Miss Catherine leads **Toddler Tales** with books, rhymes, music, and small movement on Thursdays, Feb. 14, 21, and 28; 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and 11 to 11:30 a.m. For children 16 months to 36 months, with parent or caregiver.

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).

❖ In *May All People and Pigs Be Happy*, by Micki Fine Pavlicek with illustrations by John Pavlicek, 7-year-old Claire and her stuffed animal Pigalina learn to meditate. Ages 4 to 9.

❖ A young girl faces her fears in *Brave Molly*, written and illustrated by Brooke Boynton-Hughes. Ages 5 to 12.

❖ In *Surprise Lily*, by Sharelle Byars Moranville, a 10-year-old girl’s long-absent mother comes home. Ages 8 to 12.

❖ A boy, his best friend, and his dog race to save the stars in *The Star Shepherd*, co-written by Dan Haring and MarcyKate Connolly. Ages 8 to 13.

Children’s Nonfiction

❖ *Big Breath: A Guided Meditation for Kids*, written by William Meyer and illustrated by Brittany R. Jacobs, looks at how breathing can relax and calm you. Ages 4 to 10.

❖ Kids will be inspired by *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin*, by Julia Finley Mosca, with illustrations by Daniel Rieley. Ages 5 to 10.

❖ In *What’s Cooking at 10 Garden Street: Recipes for Kids From Around the World*, author/illustrator Felicita Sala shows off some global dishes that are simple to make. Ages 6 to 9.

❖ The thrilling career of Jean-François Gravelet is recounted in *King of the Tightrope: When the Great Blondin Ruled Niagara*, written by Donna Janell Bowman and illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Ages 6 to 10.

❖ Lee Bennett Hopkins compiles *I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage*, featuring diverse American poets. Ages 9 to 12.

❖ *The Big Book of Monsters: The Creepiest Creatures From Classic Literature*, written by Hal Johnson and illustrated by Tim Sievert, features 25 truly scary creatures. Ages 10 to 14.

Annotations by Voice bookworm  
Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

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



IMAGE: SONPHOTO.COM

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### What Do You Noe?

By Mazook and Friends

**DEMOGRAPHIC DESIGN:** Over the past year, Downtown Noe Valley—the landscape of goods and services in our quaint urban village—has gone through a bundle of changes. Several retail stores and cafes lost out to the economic shuffle. Laundromats closed. Hopes for a hardware store dimmed, as vanity shops multiplied.

However, one thing in the neighborhood remained steady. And now it looks as if it will continue for another 15 years. The Noe Valley Association, the community benefit district on 24th Street, won support from the property owners along 24th Street. They voted to continue taxing themselves to keep our main street clean and beautiful and to support local events at the Noe Valley Town Square. Thank you. (*See full story, page 7.*)



**FIT FOR A KING:** The big news on the food front last month was that Savor was finally closing its doors (Jan. 12), after two decades in the restaurant business. The Savor family thanked its customers via Nextdoor, saying, “We are saddened to announce the closing of Savor Open Kitchen. We thank our regulars, our neighbors, and each and every guest who we’ve ever had the pleasure of serving. —Savor Open Kitchen Family.”

Maher Fakhouri opened the restaurant in 1996, after a remodel that included an outdoor patio in the Noe Valley mini-mall.

Over the years, Savor, which featured crepes and salads and Middle-Eastern cuisine, became so popular that in June of 2000 the king of Jordan showed up for a crepe with jalapeño jelly. King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the then new ruler of the country, and his wife, Queen Rania, arrived in a motorcade of 10 to 12 cars.

In 2007, Maher Fakhouri sold the business to a member of his extended family, Zaid Fakhouri. For a while, the restaurant did fine on its brunch business. However, by 2016, Zaid said (in this column), costs had risen so high he had to reduce staff and eliminate the table service. When customers slacked off, Zaid let the lease expire.

Then the restaurant was taken over by a manager for the property owner, Charlie Sirhed, who tried to bring new life to the space.

“We tried to get more diners to visit us,” said Sirhed. For the past two years, “we brought back the table service, remodeled the interior, and had several promotions with ‘early bird’ specials and ‘kids eat free’ days. But many of our regular customers have moved out of the neighborhood. The new residents and the younger people don’t go out as much. They order and have it delivered. The costs of running the restaurant became too great, good help was too hard to find, and the revenue steadily decreased.”

Sirhed says he doesn’t know what the future holds for the space, which now stands vacant. But he said he doesn’t expect it to be filled any time soon.



**BURNT TOAST:** Another bomb-shell—though it happened three months earlier—was the abrupt closing of Toast at 3991 24th St. near the corner of Sanchez. The cafe had served breakfast and lunch for the past 12 years.

“Our lease was up in October, the building was facing a seismic retrofit which required the removal of my walk-in refrigeration in the basement and closing the whole restaurant for a time [and we were] paying rent of \$10,000 a month, which would only increase. It was time to go,” said one of Toast’s owners, Kamal Naser.

“We still have our location in Noe Valley at Church and Day, so it’s all good,” Naser said.



**VIRTUAL VICTUALS:** A “ghost kitchen” is operating at 741 Diamond near 24th Street, the spot occupied for many years by PastaGina.

It’s called Local Food Hall. It’s not a deli or a restaurant. Instead, it’s a very modern kitchen where people prepare meals to be picked up by food delivery services, like Grubhub, Caviar, or Uber Eats, which then deliver them to you or your workplace or Super Bowl celebration (gulp).

The kitchen uses the recipes of various eateries, such as Dosa and Big Chef Tom’s Belly Burgers, which may no longer have a brick-and-mortar site so they need a kitchen space to fill orders.

The company that is operating Local Food Hall is a San Francisco-based startup called Virtual Kitchen Co. It has at least two other kitchens in the city, one in the Marina and the other on California Street in the Upper Fillmore.

Virtual Kitchen was founded by Ken Chong, who formerly spearheaded Uber’s marketplace product team; Matt Sawchuk, who most recently was a top dog at Uber Eats; and chef Andro Radonich, who started the corporate caterer Andro’s Rostilj. (*Rostilj* is Croatian for barbecue.)

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation wants to meet the ghost chefs, so it can possibly peek at a virtual pizza.



**VEGGING OUT:** For Church Street Produce patrons, good news may be on the way. The popular market at Church and 30th was locked up in September, after being abandoned by the most recent merchant-tenant, Navjot Kaur.

According to Luis Molina, an attorney for building owners George Kintis and John Hilas, a notice to pay the October rent of \$5,500 was posted on the front door and legal action brought to evict Kaur, who Molina says “just disappeared.”

The building owners got possession the first week of January and are now cleaning out the mess Kaur left behind. Meanwhile, “we have received many inquiries to rent the space and restore the produce shop,” said Molina, “and hopefully we will have it rented very soon.”

Kintis and Hilas opened the market back in 1979 and retired in 2008. George Sepetis took over until 2015, when he sold the business to Kaur.

On Jan. 9, a neighbor and friend of the store, Marilyn Schaumburg, brought everyone up to date on Nextdoor. She wrote, “John [Hilas] told me today that the bank came by to photograph the contents for the \$\$\$ owed the bank... [and he] is the one left with the outstanding bills to PG&E [and] Recology, [which] actually put a lien on the property for unpaid bills.”

In response, other neighbors offered to set up a fund to help the owners, who

had to hire a lawyer and go to court, and now have to clean the place and pay all the unpaid garbage and utility bills.

Let’s hope there’s progress on all fronts.



**IT’S FATE:** The Psychic Eye has reappeared after closing not long after it opened six months ago. Back then, nobody knew what was in the cards for this store, located in the former Rare Device at 4071 24th St. At one point, a notice was posted on the front door saying “pay rent or quit.”

But in mid-January, Julie Taylor contacted the *Voice* to say she had taken over from Destiny J, the previous spiritual guide, and that she, Taylor, would reopen, possibly with a new store name, on Feb. 1.

Besides palm and tarot readings, she will sell incense, candles, and wish kits. “In addition, we will have a Valentine’s Day special, with 25 percent off everything in the store.”

Meantime, she said, if you come in and buy a small item in the store, she will answer a question or do a short reading. “It’s a spiritual gift and a spiritual healing. Everybody needs spiritual guidance,” Taylor said.

She said she envisioned a long future in the neighborhood. “I hope to be here at least two years.” Her hours will be 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.



**PICK UP YOUR PEN:** Folio Books owners Paula and John Foley report December was one of their biggest months ever. Books were flying out the door. While smiling like cheshire cats, they told *Voice* editor Sally Smith they were still super busy re-stocking the store. Smith was looking for *American Oligarchs* (it wasn’t out yet). She was happy she found a 2020 datebook.

Noe Valley native Conor Dougherty has written a soon-to-be-best-seller on the housing affordability crisis. Due out in February, it’s called *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America* (Penguin Press). Currently on a national book tour, Dougherty will stop at Green Apple Books on the Park Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. (and at the Commonwealth Club March 4). His award-winning *New York Times* series “Cramped and Costly,” which he reported over a three-year period from 2015 to 2017, inspired the book. Anthony Dougherty, Conor’s dad, still lives here on Dolores Street. Conor now resides in Oakland.

Mission/Noe Valley writer/journalist Mary Ladd brought her “disrespectful cancer book,” *The Wig Diaries*, to Folio Books on Jan. 30. “It tells the story of getting through seven cancer surgeries, eight infections, 69 blood tests, one over-the-top crush on my surgeon, and 22 rounds of chemotherapy,” she writes. The book is illustrated by her friend and colleague Don Asmussen, known for his “Bad Reporter” comic strip in the *Chronicle*. If you missed the event, which also featured poet Leticia Hernandez, you can see Ladd at Green Apple Books on the Park, on Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. See MaryLadd.com.

Turns out that *Bay Nature*, edited by Noe Valleyan Regina Starr Ridley, was the zine responsible for breaking the Dec. 10 story about the “penis fish” (actually, fat innkeeper worms) that were stranded at Drakes Beach last summer. *Voice* writer Matthew S. Bajko ran into Ridley on the street, and she told him *Bay Nature*’s story and photo, by Ivan Parr and Kate Montana, went viral and led to global shout-outs for the magazine. Bajko: “She also told me they saw a huge increase in likes of

their Instagram account, jumping from 4,000 to more than 11,000 followers.” Well, with a name like penis fish...



**UPDATING THE UPDATES:** Charlie’s Corner bookstore, at 4102 24th St., is still offering a \$125 a month membership that includes unlimited story times and other freebies. But the good news is, all donations of \$100 or more to the store’s GoFundMe campaign will be credited to a membership, if desired. Owner Charlotte Nagy and the gang at Charlie’s were awarded a certificate of honor by the city at a party Dec. 9, with Gloria Chan of San Francisco’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development presiding over the festivities. In January, the store had raised more than \$35,000 through the GFM page. Hope both things boost the bookstore’s chances of long-term survival.

It was a win-win last month for two local “pop-ups.” Nancyland Kids, which before Christmas was located in the back of the furniture store When Modern Was, found a new home on 24th Street in Good News’ old spot (see this month’s Store Trek). That opened up space at WMW (4037 24th) for Karen Johnson, representing Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, to display a larger palette. Johnson wants everyone to know “this is now the only store in San Francisco that carries the Annie Sloan paint.” Artists use it to create vintage or modern finishes on wood, metal, and “even fabric,” she says.

One Medical, the membership-based primary-care provider that started up in Noe Valley on the corner of 23rd and Sanchez in 2007 and then moved to 3885 24th St. (once Tuggey’s Hardware), made a big splash the end of January. The company went public, debuting on Wall Street at \$14 a share. One Medical has 16 offices in San Francisco, 29 clinics in the Bay Area, and 77 around the country. Their hope was to raise \$100 million in the IPO.

Finally, another eyelash salon has opened within a hair salon in Noe Valley. Says Steffon, owner of Episode Salon and Spa at 1360 Church St., “Episode Lash is doing fabulous lash extensions and lash lifts and lash tints in three luxurious rooms, with the latest micro lash lamp and comfy memory foam beds and with soothing music.” He promises the treatment will make your eyes “more energetic, sharper, brighter, and bigger.” We all need that.



WELL, THAT’S 30, boys and girls. Have a great February and a happy Leap Year. ■



**It’s Frosty!** After a freak hailstorm in January, the kids at Upper Noe Rec Center hopped to it and made a tiny snowman.

Photo by Cheryl Woltjen





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