

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Local Shops Offer Gifts to Make Holiday Sparkle

Santa Finds Ways to Circumvent Supply Chain

By Kit Cameron and Sally Smith

Take a walk down 24th Street these days and you cannot fail to be caught up in the holiday spirit. Tinsel, lights, and decorated trees occupy the sidewalks. Both the Christmas tree and the Chanukah menorah are alit in the town square. Every shop window is brimful of tempting objects, from expensive, sleek, and sexy to cheap and charming and even downright silly. And pretty much everything on your list can be found in the neighborhood.

**Wink SF, 4005 24th St., 415-401-8881, [winksf.com](http://winksf.com)**

Wink, our “cool gift shop,” is in an extra cheery mood this season, having recently moved from 4107 24th St., its location since 2005, down one block to 4005 24th St.

“Many people are coming in and saying, ‘This is so much bigger!’ when really it’s about the same size,” laughs Claudia Bushee, who’s been helping out owners Teresa Hagiya and Marcy Israel at the shop for the past 12 years. The whimsical assortment of toys, puzzles, backpacks, stationery, T-shirts, and S.F. memorabilia is reaching a wider audience and everyone seems happy.

Among the items going fast are the birch cutting boards, platters, and trays with designs by Swedish artist Nadja Wedin (\$32-\$54). “The cat design is wildly popular,” Bushee says, but there are trays with bulldogs and owls, too.

The silicon LumiPet toy and night-light (\$30) is a winner, as are the store’s handmade wallets, beaded bracelets, and opalescent rings.

**When Modern Was, 4001 24th St., 415-970-9030, [whenmodernwas.com](http://whenmodernwas.com)**

By moving into the space once occupied by Rabat at the corner of 24th and Noe streets, When Modern Was has



**Smiles of the Season:** Like Kathleen Franklin as she views the window at When Modern Was on 24th Street, shoppers are admiring the holiday lights and finding many a perfect stocking stuffer in Noe Valley.  
*Photo by Sally Smith*

found a way to go Back to the Future. The store, its walls covered in clocks and curios, is full of color, light, and novelty. “Owner Dona Taylor did a beautiful job redesigning the store,” says 15-year employee Monique Moro.

Dancing out the door, she says, are the pink and white miniature trees, the vintage glassware (a set of eight crystal goblets will set you back \$129.95), and the garlands of pink-gold ornaments made of mercury glass (\$49.95). “They look nice and festive, and you can use them every year,” says Moro.

In the back you’ll find a cabinet of Annie Sloan chalk paint, along with desks and tables deftly decoupaged.

Sales associate Karen Johnson says a piano bench “we found in the basement of the new store” was refinished as an homage to Frida Kahlo and whisked out the door the day it went on the floor. A liter of paint goes for \$39.95, and a nightstand, transformed into a work of art, for \$325.

With its bronze bookends, silk flowers, and old typewriters (“The 30-some-things really like the vintage typewriters,” says Johnson), the store is an adventure in wonderland.

Music legend Emmylou Harris paid a visit in September!

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## J-Church Riders Still Have Tunnel Vision

But SFMTA Considers More Changes for Truncated Line

By Matthew S. Bajko

The ongoing efforts by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to improve service on the J-Church line is expected to bring additional changes to the route in 2022. Foremost for transit advocates is seeing the line returned to downtown subway service.

Last December, the SFMTA altered the route when it revived streetcar service along the J-Church. The transit agency had mothballed it for much of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Rather than heading underground via the tunnel at Church and Duboce streets to service the downtown subway stations, the J-Church trains now make their last inbound stop at that intersection. The trains then turn around to head back outbound to the terminus at the Balboa Park Station near City College.

Although done to speed up service on Muni’s other lines that use the tunnel to go downtown, the change has inconvenienced J-Church passengers, who now have to disembark their trains and catch Muni’s other lines via the underground Church Station or the aboveground N-Judah stop at Duboce and Church. Disabled Muni riders and those with mobility issues have been particularly vocal in objecting to the reduced J-Church route.

They have pointed out that the only elevator into Church Station is across Market Street, requiring them to navigate four lanes of traffic to reach it. And at certain times of the day, the only escalator running down into the station is also on that side of the street.

Due to their objections, in particular those of the recently formed Restore the J Workgroup, the SFMTA board is set

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## Dick “O’Greenberg” Knew How to Serve His Neighbors

By Jeff Kaliss

Sitting in the bar that used to be O’Greenberg’s (it’s now The Bar on Dolores, at the corner of 29th Street), Debbie Mullady-Greenberg is reminiscing about Dick Greenberg, her late husband and the bar’s former owner, and about the Noe Valley of the 1970s and ’80s. Back then, Dick had a publican’s piece of numerous venues in the neighborhood.

“We used to go up to 24th Street to do our banking,” Debbie remembers. “And it would take us four hours, because we’d go to the Cork ’n’ Bottle, the Peaks, and so forth. And we knew people, just walking down the street, and we’d stop. And most people loved Dick.”

People of several generations had shared good times with Dick at those watering holes, and at the other spots in which he was financially invested or tending bar.

“Dick and Larry Mays had the bar which is now the Valley Tavern, and he asked me to come work for him there,” recalls Wayne Basso. “Then, there was a building for sale at 25th and Church, the old Valhalla, and Dick and I bought the whole

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



**Last Pour:** In the 1970s and ’80s, Dick Greenberg helped make Noe Valley a destination for all those looking for entertainment and relaxation. The venerable host and barman died in August, at the age of 89.  
*Photo courtesy Debbie Mullady-Greenberg*





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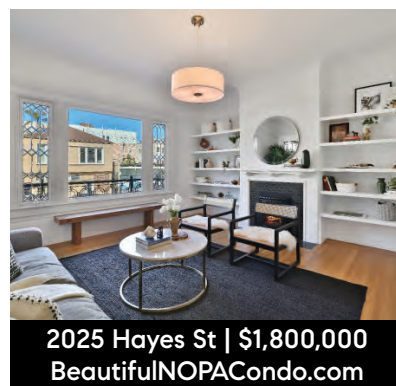
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The pendulum keeps swinging... 2021 started out of the gate very strong. The 2020 presidential election was saved, the vaccine rolled out, and a collective sigh of relief was breathed. A January buying frenzy started back up almost immediately in 2021. But in the summer, the Delta variant reared its ugly head. Companies postponed their back to the office plans. Travel plans were cancelled. And a feeling of doubt and fear came back almost as quickly as it had dissipated. The typically strong fall market suffered, as buyer fatigue seemed to permeate October. The Delta variant looks like it has been beaten back, but confronting these pandemic ups and downs looks like it is the new normal. Interest rates have started to creep back up, and inflation seems like it may be more of a long term challenge than just a fleeting issue. Both of which should be inspiring home buyers to make a move. How will the 2022 market respond? **As a top SF realtor for 15 years, Jessica is an expert at timing, strategy and preparing property for successful sales. If you are considering selling your home, make sure to interview Jessica, and let her intelligence, experience, and wisdom guide you! Her record of success speaks for itself.**



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As a local company, we strive to endorse and support organizations throughout our community that uplift, empower, and serve those in need. This season, we have donated over \$35,000 to establishments including Jamestown, the Mosaic Project, the Access Institute, Felton Institutes, Lavendar Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC), Support for Families, JFCS East Bay, Afghan Coalition, & Planned Parenthood. We feel these organizations directly contribute to the greater good of this city we call home and are so appreciative of their work.

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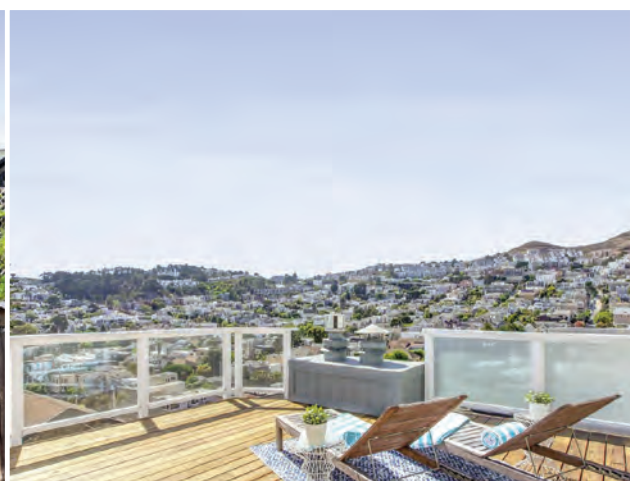
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Support Israel

Editor:  
Bernie Corace’s letter to the editor in the November issue of the *Voice* represents views that lack perspective on what matters *most* with respect to the United States’ support for the State of Israel.

First, we support Israel because it is a democracy and one that is surrounded by dictatorships and monarchies. Defending democracies is vital to our national interest.

Second, anti-Semitism is real. Israel gained statehood in the aftermath of the worst expression of anti-Semitism—the Holocaust—and there’s tremendous value in Israel being a special home and sanctuary.

Third, peaceful dispute resolution is impossible when your opponent regularly resorts to extreme acts like suicide bombings. Without the experience of living with terrorism and being immersed in the conflict’s on-the-ground details, it is naïve to pass judgment, especially from the comfort of California.

Nat Kreamer  
Noe Valley Resident and U.S. military veteran who served in the Middle East

View From Goldmine

Editor:  
Thank you for publishing another great article by Matthew Bajko (“Report Takes Stock of Housing in District 8,” November 2021 *Voice*). Your photo of the view from Goldmine Hill overlooking the lot at 5367 Diamond Heights Blvd., a site that was originally slated for the development of affordable housing, particularly speaks to the issues covered in this article.

Ozzie Rohm  
Noe Valley resident

LETTERS 58¢

Give Densification a Try

Editor:  
I’m writing in response to the piece “Diamond Street Development Rankles Some,” detailing the purported controversy about the development proposed on a hillside between Diamond Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The real controversy, which longtime Noe Valley residents rarely seem to care about, is the utter lack of multi-family construction here over the years, which has led Noe Valley to be ranked among the most segregated neighborhoods in the Bay Area, according to the UC Berkeley displacement project. Any resident with a cheery “BLM” sign in their window should self-reflect as to whether they are in fact living their values of inclusiveness and racial diversity when they oppose new construction in Noe at nearly every turn.

They now decry the proposed development as “luxury” housing, forgetting (or choosing to omit) the fact that the average home sale price in Noe right now is \$3 million, due to decades of under-investment in new housing construction.

Over 700 people have signed a petition opposing this development. Similarly, many are opposed to the project at 4512 23rd St., a HomeSF project with on-site affordable housing set-asides and all-electric.

Unfortunately, hundreds of Noe neighbors, many of whom live in luxury housing themselves, oppose the ability for others to move to our neighborhood, under the guise of wanting more affordable-housing units.

Meanwhile, property values in Noe continue to climb more steeply than the hillside in question, and Noe homeowners enjoy growing wealth resulting from years of NIMBYism. (And don’t get me started on how Prop. 13 means that longtime Noe residents owe less in property taxes than their younger homeowner peers, thus paying more in lip service than in taxes to the firefighters and teachers they claim to support.)

In the 2010s, San Francisco added over 400,000 jobs but barely more than 100,000 housing units, thus increasing the high demand for housing here, especially in tony neighborhoods like Noe Valley. Unlike San Francisco, peer cities like Seattle and Denver added multiunit developments as jobs moved in, lessening upward pressure on home prices. Unfortunately, the plight of lower-income residents is often used as a shield against the approval of the development of new housing in San Francisco, and the Diamond Heights project is a case study in this type of opposition.

My family and I live a stone’s throw from the proposed development site. (Like many young families, we’re

renters—we can’t afford to buy a home in Noe Valley.) I often walk with my daughter to the bus stops that exist astride the unused, steep hillside with a smattering of trees on it.

Would it be nice if this development were 100 percent affordable, so teachers and firefighters could live there? Yes. But here is a proposal to build new multifamily construction for the first time in years, right now, in front of us. Let’s stop raising opposition to new housing, and densify our neighborhood so that more people can move in and enjoy what we love about Noe Valley.

Joe DiMento  
Beacon Street

No Justice for J?

Editor:  
SFMTA management sank to a new low at the Citizens Advisory Council meeting Nov. 18, when Transit Director Julie Kirschbaum stated a reason for NOT restoring the J-Church to the subway, as an overwhelming number of riders want, is because of the demographics of Noe Valley. How is she wrong? Let us count the ways.

First, the J-Church is a citywide resource. It serves neighborhoods from Excelsior and the Outer Mission to Duboce Triangle and beyond. Riders from these and other neighborhoods have expressed their strong desire to restore the J. By suggesting that only Noe Valley is affected, she is being dismissive of the broader ridership and demographic whom she implies the MTA is serving.

Furthermore, keeping the J out of the subway and forcing riders to transfer at Market Street does nothing to serve riders from other demographics. MTA’s own analysis shows that the subway can accommodate J cars at 10-minute intervals without degrading subway performance. The major factors improving post-pandemic subway performance are the permanent change in commute patterns and the elimination of rush hours.

I am fully in favor of transit justice. All areas of the city should be well served by Muni, and more service should be provided to neighborhoods that have been neglected historically. But keeping the J-Church out of the subway has not benefitted a single rider from a neglected neighborhood. For more information about restoring the J-Church, see RestoreJ.org.

Kathy Setian  
Sanchez Street

Lighted Forest Denied Again

Editor:  
Regarding “Return of the Midnight Rollers,” November 2021 *Voice*:  
The cruelty and exclusion continues. The City is keeping JFK Drive closed

to cars 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So it’s not about teaching children to ride their bikes along JFK Drive, because, of course, children are not learning to ride bicycles in the dark during the long winter nights.

This is just Phil Ginsburg’s agenda progressing as he pushes eliminating cars along JFK Drive at all times. The desires and the needs of the elderly, the thousands of disabled persons, and the multigenerational families from throughout the Bay Area who would like to access the Lighted Forest will be denied again this year due to JFK Drive being closed to cars. This is inhumane, disrespectful, and cruel.

Tomasita Medál  
ParkAccess4All

Party On, Sanchez Street

Open Letter to Mazook of “Rumors Behind the News”:  
I read in the October *Noe Valley Voice* about you helping to celebrate the car blockage of Sanchez Street at the expense of Noe and Church streets while residents on Sanchez retain all of their parking. I’m wondering on what streets those fortunates drive? It’s amazing, with all the impact studies that are done these days, no major impact study has been done in this case. But then, this is San Francisco and we only favor items that favor the SFMTA.

We are in a democracy where everything has equal impact. So, Mazook, get out your paper and pencils and start a petition drive to block cars from Douglass, Eureka, Diamond, and Noe. Castro and Church would become transit-only streets with beautiful red carpets with green bicycle paths and, let us not forget, scooters. They could be yellow.


Now Dolores and Guerrero may object. But the Sanchez and other streets’ parked cars have to be able to drive somewhere. C’mon, let’s be reasonable. To help them out, each block would have speed bumps and stop signs at each corner, and if there are several signals in a row, make sure they are set to go green for cars at 13 mph to help bicycles, like it’s done on South Van Ness.

Mazook, when you have the petition blanks ready, please send one to me. I have no address yet, but I’m moving to Milpitas, where residents are less self-ish, downplay the ME FIRST attitude, and use their brains and are more rational.

Emil Davis  
27th Street

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS  
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS  
Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor  
Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Olivia Boler, Kit Cameron, Gabe Castro-Root, Liz Highleyman, Kala Hunter, Jeff Kaliss, Charlotte Kane, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Astrid Utting, Megan Wetherall

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING  
Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION  
Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION  
Jack Tipple

WEB GURU  
Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES  
Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN





## Stores of Gifts in Noe Valley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### **Just for Fun and Scribbledoodles, 3982 24th St., 415-285-4068**

If you're in Just for Fun, you are most likely getting your groove on with a tea towel that says "Queen of Damn Near Everything" (\$9.95). And if you are a parent, you are cruising the toy aisle.

New owner Michelle O'Connor says her 6-year-old Sophie hopes Santa will bring her the three-foot-tall stuffed giraffe in the window (\$129.95). But, says O'Connor, it's the timeless board games like Candyland (\$16.95) that have been "flying off the shelves."

She is excited that the Christmas trees, a big part of the store's appeal since it opened 34 years ago, are all decorated. They're laden with blown-glass ornaments, priced from \$14.95 for a Giants jersey one to \$100 for a hand-made heirloom angel by Kurt Adler. The big sellers so far this year are the Ruth Bader Ginsburg (\$18.95), San Francisco cable car (\$15.95), and "for whatever reason," an avocado (\$17.95).

The store has a full Chanukah section, with cards, wrapping paper, and, of course, menorahs. A Vespa menorah will set you back \$69.

O'Connor adds she has been overwhelmed by the community welcome she has received. "Literally hundreds of people have come in to wish us well."

### **Terra Mia Ceramic Studio, 1314 Castro St., 415-642-9911**

There is still time to paint an ornament or a "Grandma's Christmas Light Tree" at Terra Mia, Noe Valley's cherished ceramics studio on Castro near 24th Street (founded 1994). Or maybe a mug for Dad is on your list.

Says Brianna Herrera, who has worked at the studio for 3½ years, "Those are popular choices. But we also have vases, pet bowls, jewelry boxes, animal figurines, spoon rests, spice jars, plates, serving platters," and numerous other blank pottery canvases for artists of all ages.

You can paint inside the studio or at picnic tables in the back garden, or buy a to-go kit of ceramics, brushes, and glaze. The rate for "sitting" in November was \$13 adults/\$10 kids, plus the price of the pottery piece. The ornaments, for example, start at \$12. Keep in mind there's a four-day turn-



Brianna Herrera says you can paint your pottery inside or outdoors in the back garden at Terra Mia Ceramic Studio, or buy a to-go kit to paint at home.

Photos by Sally Smith.



There are zillions of ornaments on the trees at Just for Fun, and we're only exaggerating a little.

around for getting your creation fired.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

### **Mapamundi Kids, 1306 Castro St., 415-641-6192, mapamundikids.com**

Mapamundi, near the corner of Castro and 24th, has beautifully designed toys and children's clothing we wish we could squeeze into. The store was humming with excitement on a recent Friday, as parents rushed to bring the toy boats, xylophones, and cuddly bears to the counter for gift wrap out of sight of their children.

While fielding questions from three people at once, employee Saira Barajas pointed to toys that could be magnetic this season: colorful plastic building blocks from Tegu (\$40-\$120) and wood Magna-Tiles (\$16-\$130). "They're popular because they're buildable and interactive," she says, and kids can design and snap together anything from a robot to a house to a rocket.

Also admired are the Peruvian hand-knit sweaters and dresses by Misha & Puff (\$135 and up). Each has the name of the artisan who made it on the tag.

For a gift in the \$60 range, Barajas

recommends the hand-embroidered, hand-knit dolls—like Ella the unicorn or Charlotte the Dog—from Cuddle & Kind. She says, "The company will provide meals for 10 children, for each doll you buy."

### **Basil Racuk, 3980 24th St. and 4010 24th St., 415-852-8550, basilracuk.com**

You may have been tempted to enter Basil Racuk's eponymously named shop next to Bernie's, to stroke the vibrant leather bags (priced from \$195 to \$375). Or you may be looking for a special one-of-a-kind dress made with vintage kimono fabric (\$650) or a sumptuous metallic leather bomber jacket (\$1,100). Racuk envisions his handcrafted pieces as timeless apparel and generally only makes one of each design.

The original store has been on the street since October 2019. And now there is a second shop, opened in October, just a few doors up the street next to Novy. "Inspired by Keith Richards," says Racuk, the boutique has a Rolling Stones soundtrack and enveloping cave-like setting to set up its gender-fluid sweatshirts that remind us "You can't always get what you want" (\$225) and hand-printed ban-



The hand-knit dolls by Cuddle & Kind at Mapamundi Kids each have names.

anas proclaiming "I'm a man of wealth and taste" (\$69).

### **Ambiance, 3979 24th St., 415-647-5800, ambiancesf.com**

It's all about sparkle and cuddles in Ambiance this season. Sales associate Deb Shuler points to "a ton of special sweaters" making their way into shoppers' wardrobes. For a special night (or day) out, there are sequins—a black sequined coat or a twinkling peach sequined skirt (\$120). And then there are the festive headbands, in velvet, sleek satin, or bejeweled, all priced about \$20.

For 17 years shopkeeper Donna O'Leary (who bought the business eight years after it was started) has dressed the women of Noe Valley. This season, Shuler notes, shoppers started early, aware that global shipping snafus meant, "as items sell out, we can't reorder them."

It's time to pick up those Snowman plush socks (\$15).

### **Xela Imports, 3925 24th St., 415-695-1325, xelaimports.com**

The windows of Xela Imports, crammed with Balinese statues, a mirrored jewel box filled with crystals, imported textiles, jewelry, and Mexican calavera figures, invite you in to this internationally sourced gift shop. The store has been on the street since 1984 and in 1996 Alessandro Bifulco took over the business.

"He discovered [the place] while he was on vacation in San Francisco," says sister Paola Heines, "and invited me to come from Italy to join him and help run the business." Heines says their long-standing relationships with artisans around the world—in Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, and their hometown of Naples—ensures they have many unusual handcrafted goods, from the frolicsome earrings made by Italian street artists (\$10) popular with teens, to the vintage Neapolitan jewelry such as a "frangia" cut necklace of orange Mediterranean coral (\$400).

### **Small Frys, 3985 24th St., 415-648-3954, smallfrys.com**

Small Frys has been catering to those little fashion-forward tykes we see on 24th Street, since 1984. Looking for the perfect pair of jammies for that holiday photo? Salesperson Jennifer Cuevas says the 12-days-of-Christmas themed pajamas may be the perfect choice at \$29. When your little one grows out of them, you'll have that holiday memory.

Meanwhile, 2-year-old shopper Luke has no hesitation in saying what he would like for Christmas: "Monster truck!" made by Lego (\$19.95). You can get all kinds of Legos, including a Star Wars advent calendar for \$49.

### **Stephen Moore Home, 3845 24th St., 415-754-8656, stephenmoorehome.com**

Walking into Stephen Moore Home you are embraced by the fragrance of holiday candles, back again this year at \$55. Your eyes may be drawn to the shelves of Belgian linens, "hugely popular," says owner Stephen Moore. The production of linen, a labor-intensive process undertaken by generations of Belgian farmers, has resulted in a naturally dyed hand towel, for example, priced at \$45. The fabric is so seductive the giant bath towels (\$145) have become popular for use as furniture throws.

Timeless classics in the shop include Redecker brushes, for the home and for body care. A natural bristle dish brush can be had for \$10 or you might get a lamb's wool duster for \$22. And Moore points out that they never wear out. Since he opened in 2017, he has drawn

### **Books a Lasting Treasure**

Books are always a gift worth giving, and our two neighborhood bookstores have plenty to share.

Folio Books, 3957 24th St., is a full-range bookstore with a wall of staff recommendations. You can get signed copies by local authors like Charlie Jane Anders' *Even Greater Mistakes* (\$27.99) or new bestsellers like *Renegades: Born in the USA* by bro-friends Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen (illustrated, \$50). Or how about a Folio Books limited-edition mug (\$20, proceeds go to charity)?

Omnivore Books on Food, 3885 Cesar Chavez St., offers new cookbooks like Gennaro's *Limoni: Vibrant Italian Recipes Celebrating the Lemon* (\$30), which will help family and friends deal with the bumper crop of Meyer's in their back yards. Or how about a vintage cookbook (\$35 and up)? Julia Child, anyone?

To hear Santa read his favorites, drop by Folio on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 to 4 p.m. For online browsing, go to omnivorebooks.myshopify.com or foliosf.com.

—Richard May

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



CRIME SNAPSHOT

Thefts Down But Still Disturbing

By Corrie M. Anders and Sally Smith

The San Francisco Police Department's digital crime map shows property thefts and burglaries in Noe Valley both dropped in October.

There were 38 reported property heists—three fewer than in the previous month—in the crime category known as “Larceny/Thefts,” and 14 burglaries, nine fewer than in September.

As in past months, the bulk of the larceny incidents (25) involved vehicle break-ins, items stolen from cars. The remainder were thefts from buildings (7), stolen license plates (3), stolen bicycles (2), and an attempted car-stripping (removal of parts).

In six of the burglary cases, thieves broke into homes or apartments (or garages) while people were on the premises.

Violent crimes are a rarity in Noe Valley. However, there were two robberies in October that involved physical force, according to incident reports published in Ingleside Police Station's Nov. 4 newsletter.

One case was a brazen theft at 3:35 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28, at the intersection of Dolores and 29th streets.

“The victim stated that she was driving and stopped at a red light, when an unknown vehicle pulled up alongside her,” read the report. “The passenger of the second vehicle approached the victim's vehicle, broke the passenger side window, and reached in to take the vic-

tim's purse. A struggle ensued between the victim and the suspect for control of her purse, until the suspect was able to pull it through the window. The suspect returned to the get-away vehicle and fled the scene” with the purse.

In the other reported incident, a suspect used force in an unsuccessful attempt to rob a victim at about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10, at Dolores and 23rd streets.

Both incidents are under investigation.

In the 10 categories the *Noe Valley Voice* monitors monthly, the total number of incidents reported in Noe Valley in October was 93, three fewer than in September.

The table at right shows incidents from January through October 2021. The October numbers were collected Nov. 17 from the dataset titled “A Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports From 2018 to the Present,” found under Public Safety at Data.sfgov.org. The crime map shows Noe Valley as bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Noe Valley is covered by two police districts, Ingleside and Mission. The Ingleside Station commander is Capt. Nicole Jones. Jones can be reached at 415-404-4000 or by email at nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org.

The commander at Mission Station is Capt. Rachel Moran. To contact her, call 415-558-5400 or email rachel.moran@sfgov.org.

In an emergency, call 911. ■

Noe Valley Incident Reports January 2021 – October 2021

Incident Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Larceny/Theft	33	27	29	24	36	26	63	42	41	38
Burglary	36	54	17	11	16	38	23	14	23	14
Malicious Mischief	13	13	11	5	7	8	10	7	3	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	12	15	12	23	11	18	14	8	13
Assault	4	4	2	1	4	3	6	6	4	2
Robbery	1	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	2	2
Other Misc.	8	8	3	7	6	5	5	6	8	9
Fraud	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	1	3	3
Family D. Violence	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	2	0
Vandalism	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	0
TOTALS	117	121	82	64	100	99	130	93	96	93

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783>. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications and updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* collected the October data on Nov. 17, 2021.

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

NVV12/2021

**San Francisco Information Line** [www.sf311.org](http://www.sf311.org) ..... 311 or 415-701-2311  
**Covid-19** Text “COVID19SF to 888-777, see [sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19](http://sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19), or call . . . 311  
**Burned-Out Streetlights**, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) ..... 311  
**District 8 Supervisor** Rafael Mandelman, [mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org) . . . . 415-554-6968  
**District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention** . . . . . Dave.Burke@sfgov.org  
**Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)** ..... 415-695-2017  
**Hazardous Waste Disposal** (Recology 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](mailto: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  
**Pothole Repairs** [potholes@sfdpw.org](mailto:potholes@sfdpw.org) ..... 415-554-5810  
**Recycling** Recology San Francisco ..... 415-330-1300  
**Rent Board** ..... 415-252-4600  
**Sewer Problems, Overflows** ..... 415-695-2096  
**Tree Planting** [urbanforestry@sfdpw.org](mailto:urbanforestry@sfdpw.org) ..... 415-554-6700  
**24th Street Community Benefit District (CBD)** ..... 415-519-0093  
**Water Leaks, Water Pressure** ..... 415-554-3289

“Every day is Earth Day, and I vote we start investing in a secure climate future right now.”  
—Congresswoman Jackie Speier (1950–)

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

A Rows Garden

Editor's Note: In place of the usual puzzle, Michael Blake has produced a variety crossword, called a Rows Garden.

Each letter is part of a row (a normal Across entry) and a bloom (a hexagon).

This Rows Garden puzzle has one answer on Rows A, E, I, and L; other Rows have two entries. Lengths of Row answers are given, including whether there is a hyphen or apostrophe, in parentheses.

There are also 38 Light, Medium, and Dark Blooms, defined by the dot in each bloom's center. Each is a 6-letter word unless indicated. It can start at any point and can read clockwise, marked with ↻ or counter-clockwise, ↺

Clues in the Blooms lists are in grid order from left to right, top to bottom.

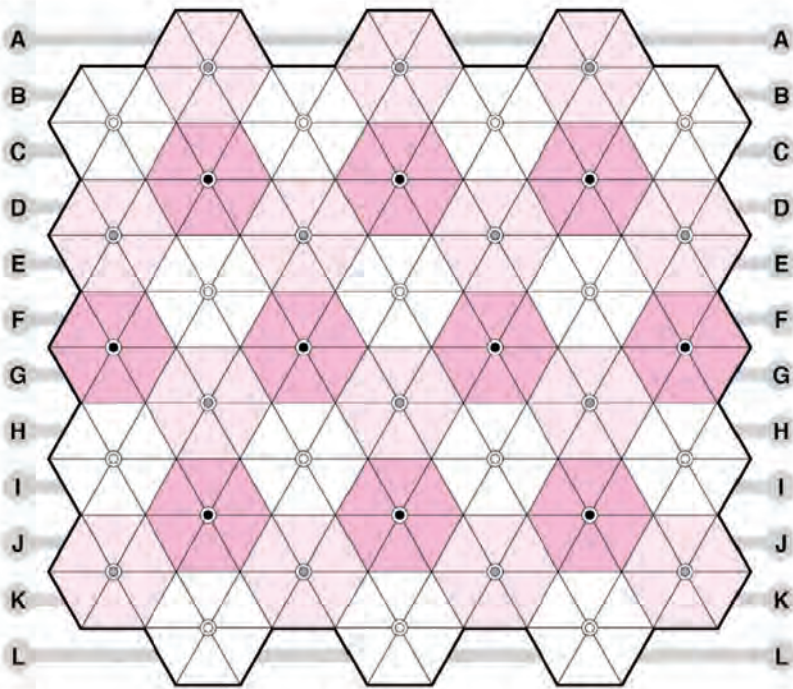
Do you like puzzles like this? You can sign up to receive a Michael Blake Rows Garden every week at [GardenPartyCrosswords.com](http://GardenPartyCrosswords.com).

Solution is on page 22.

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[GardenPartyCrosswords.com](http://GardenPartyCrosswords.com)

Rows

- A Banned (because of skull-puncture danger) backyard game resembling horseshoes (4 5)
- B Deprives of virginity (9) "I won't go just halfway" (3 2 7)
- C With *I Saw Paris*, Kern & Hammerstein tune (3 4 4) Like every statewide officeholder in California (10)
- D Soccer, football, baseball, etc. (4 6) Soft drink that competes with Mello Yello (8 3)
- E Church Street workout place that doesn't enhance inner beauty? (6 8 7)
- F 98.6 degrees, familiarly (6 4) Moves to a different time slot (11)
- G "Oops" keyboard key (3) 2006 film in which Alan Arkin won an Oscar playing a naughty grandpa (6 4 8)
- H Like a window with panes separated by vertical bars (9) Top journalists (3 9)
- I Church Street eatery that, strangely, sports another neighborhood's name (6 7 8)
- J What a tough negotiator drives (4 7) Flight attendant, back in the day (10)
- K Office equipment in a cubicle (11) (Had) become completely deranged (4 6)
- L Just like the movies (9)



Light Blooms

- Post for Yellen before Treasury (3 3, ↻)
- Date-night hiree (↻)
- Fifth president (↻)
- one's source: footnoting (↻)
- How a feeble excuse may be offered (↻)
- Concise summary (↻)
- Freed from ropes, say (↻)
- Two-by-fours or plywood (↻)
- Skater Eric who won 5 golds at Lake Placid (↻)
- The Twelve Days of Christmas eleventh (↻)
- Broadcasters (↻)
- Dec. 24 visitor, for short (2, 4, ↻)
- "Challenge accepted!" (4 2, ↻)
- Study of light and vision (↻)

Medium Blooms

- Luxuriate in, as a hippo in mud (↻)
- One \_\_\_\_: everyone (3 3, ↻)
- What get pledged at weddings, old-style (↻)
- Rip to shreds (4 2, ↻)
- With "wife," eye candy on a billionaire's arm (↻)
- Display ostentatiously (↻)
- Some Nordic people (↻)
- Like some old-fashioned lamps (3-3, ↻)
- Loose-fitting tunic (↻)
- Marine colonel Oliver and family (↻)
- Eton rival (↻)
- Part of e.g. (↻)
- Sloppy kiss, slangily (3 3, ↻)
- Candidate lists (↻)

Dark Blooms

- "The valley of the shadow of death" source (↻)
- Old 2400-baud devices (↻)
- Braincases (↻)
- Witchy women (↻)
- Courage that may be "proven" (↻)
- Go directly downhill, on the slopes (↻)
- More than forgetful (↻)
- CS/ analysis site (3 3, ↻)
- Post-sunset times (↻)
- Heckled (↻)



## Holiday Shopping on 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

in neighbors such as Arete Nicholas. “They have such unusual things,” she says. “He’s got an eye.”

**Urban Scout SF, 3848 24th St., [urbanscout.us](http://urbanscout.us)**

Describing himself as a “product junkie,” Santiago Esparza is stocking his new Urban Scout with artistic and unusual home goods, such as touch-sensitive lamps that use vintage hardware pieces and Edison filament bulbs. Each lamp is different and costs between \$145 and \$275.

Esparza says he is ecstatic to be in the former Cradle of the Sun, across the street from his good friend Stephen Moore. “I’ve lived in the neighborhood for 10 years,” he says, “and jumped on the space when it became available.” He will close after the holidays and reopen the newly remodeled store in the new year, featuring plants, lighting, and home goods.

**Two Birds, 1309 Castro St., 415-285-1840, [www.2birds1store.com](http://www.2birds1store.com)**

Sweaters, denim, and jewelry by independent designers are the hallmark of Two Birds, now celebrating more than a decade on Castro Street. In November, customers were streaming in to peek in the nest of chic clothing (\$90-\$300), just in case their holiday party was still on the calendar.

More jewelry by designer Meyla Ruwin of Beksan Designs was set to arrive Dec. 2. Meantime, marvel at the bright green pajamas, sleep shirts, and robes by Printfresh (\$100-\$130).

As gift ideas, Two Birds manager Delvon Brown suggests the glittery cactus or pineapple-shaped ornaments at \$9 to \$16. Also, “people are really liking these great travel kits for makeup and accessories.” The shiny pink and gold bags by Stephanie Johnson run \$28 to \$74.

Presents that would please the many artists among us are the oval (and portable) paint sets in watercolors (\$35) or pastels (\$30) by Fredericks & Mae.

**John James Designs, 1001 Church St., 415-385-1446, [johnjamesdesigns.com](http://johnjamesdesigns.com)**

John James and the “trusted crafty team” in his winter floral garden have been busy creating sparkly ornaments from sequoia, cypress, and spruce cones by adding glitter and leaf-twined ribbon. These elegant bits of embellished nature sell for \$18 to \$24.

A garland, described by James as “jewelry along a four-foot chain,” with sterling or brass jewelry findings entwined among 10 shimmering cones, costs \$140, and you can buy an archival gift box (\$40) to present it as a seasonal family heirloom. And then there are the custom wreaths from \$80 to \$140, all one of a kind and locally sourced from organic purveyors.

**Olive This, Olive That, 304 Vicksburg St., 415-251-7520, [olivethisolivehat.com](http://olivethisolivehat.com)**

Owner Janell Pekkain is passionate about olive oil and has already planted 80 olive trees on her property in Kelseyville. “Climate stuff is affecting the yield” of her suppliers, she says, leading to a smaller than usual harvest. But she has a vast array of oils and vinegars (starting at \$10 for 100 ml). She is making gift boxes, priced from \$80 to \$140, with olive oil, crackers, seasonings, and other accoutrements. Ask for a custom box to suit the taste of your lucky recipient.

Pekkain also is thrilled to show off



Two Birds manager Delvon Brown points to the glittery ornaments and portable paint sets that could make for beautiful host or hostess gifts over the holidays. Photo by Sally Smith

her majolica pottery from Italy, including several sizes of dishes (from \$10 for an olive pit dish to \$150 for a large bowl) and oil cruets (\$48 and \$68) from a family business in Deruta.

Olive oil needs to be consumed within five months of opening the bottle (“I always tell people to buy the appropriate size of bottle for their needs,” confides Pekkain), but the geometric and floral-designed dishes will grace a table or a shelf for ages to come.

**Lola San Francisco, 1250 Sanchez St., 415-642-4875, [lolasanfrancisco.com](http://lolasanfrancisco.com)**

Artist/designer Lola Herrera, now in her 12th year in the neighborhood, is known for her hand-painted garments and revolving shows of local artists, such as Linda Trunzo currently on the walls. Last year mid-Covid, she added a selection of gift merchandise, “everything small batch, nothing on Amazon,” says Herrera. The result, to her, was astounding. “People wanted to shop!”

Walk into her corner light-filled gallery and you will be enticed by everything from a polka-dotted “bear hug” throw at \$160 to Swedish dishcloths, “an alternative to sponges or paper towels,” says Herrera, in cute



Olive This Olive That owner Janell Pekkain shows off her majolica bowls and cruets imported from Italy. Photo by Kit Cameron

### Cliff’s Only One Valley Away

With Tuggey’s now a distant memory, Cliff’s Variety in the Castro may be Noe Valley’s closest hardware outlet. The family-owned store, which has been around since 1936, is chock full of everything from housewares and garden tools to toys and sewing supplies.

For the holidays, Cliff’s has an impressive array of ornaments and decorations.

“We’ve got everything you could possibly need to deck the halls,” says general manager Terry Asten Bennett, the fifth generation of Astens to tend the store at 479 Castro St.

Bennett referred the Voice to Chuck Griffin, a longtime employee, for tips on affordable gifts for family and friends.

One of “my absolute favorites,” says Griffin, is a device that fits in the palm of your hand. It’s a miniature key-chain flashlight with six light settings, from low beam to 400 lumen (that’s blindingly bright). The NEBO Mycro (\$34.99) comes with a USB cable to recharge the battery. “You never have to buy batteries,” Griffin says. “I absolutely love those things. That’s what I got everybody last year for Christmas.”

For the budding cosmologist, Griffin suggests the Juno 50-millimeter telescope by Discovery (\$49.99). It’s a popular gift for kids 8 and older hoping to explore the moon’s craters or the planets in our Milky Way. The telescope comes with two eye pieces for different magnifications, a tripod stand, a star map, and downloadable astronomy software.

The store also has a great item for showing local pride. It’s the Cliff’s Variety T-shirt with an image of a bare-chested muscle man shouldering a heavy wrench. The shirt comes in black, burgundy, blue, dark green, and gray, and goes for \$19.99.

P.S. Don’t forget Wednesdays are Senior Days: those 65 and up are offered a 15 percent discount. The markdown applies to everything but power tools, major appliances, ladders, and Legos, says Bennett.

—Corrie M. Anders



The silicon LumiPet from Wink is eager to light when you touch it. Photo by Sally Smith

designs like bacon and eggs for \$6.95. Homewares, handmade jewelry, and graphic Hooray socks by Noe Valley couple Tim Carpenter and Hongsun Yoon are \$12 to \$16.

For a special keepsake, consider the snow globes designed by Liz Ross and David Westby of Vermont and made in South San Francisco (\$57). Each one is a miniature world with perhaps a gold Buddha or a butterfly on a jewel-like flowering bush. Or give a gift of a Feather Felts kit from Yorkshire, England. Everything to make a creature, such as a gull, a mouse, or a sheep, is in the box, along with instructions on needle-felting the soft wool. The beginner kits are \$26.

**Lovejoy’s Attic, 1350 Church St., 415-648-6845, [lovejoystearoom.com](http://lovejoystearoom.com)**

If you are having high tea at Lovejoy’s Tea Room, you may find yourself strolling across the street to Lovejoy’s Attic, open since 2010. There, the display of vintage cups and saucers priced \$24 to \$38 will tempt you to buy a souvenir of your tea party.

Or maybe you would like to buy the black and herbal tea blends (\$14 a bag, makes 40 cups), sourced from around the world. Most popular, according to sales associate JeriAnn Dillon, is

“Lovejoy’s Tea Room Blend.” And the perfect teapot is there to be found, from plain to fancy, starting at \$29 and going up to \$52.

Lovejoy’s Tea Room opened in the early 1990s and moved to its current location in 2000. The Attic recalls the early business, an antique shop that happened to serve tea.

**Lehr’s German Specialties, 1581 Church St., 415-282-6803**



You can’t miss the *gemütlich* Christmas vibe at Lehr’s German Specialties, on Church near 28th Street. There are Advent calendars (with and without chocolates inside each window) and a wide array of imported cookies, candies, gingerbread, and yes, 18 kinds of Stollen, the delicious German version of fruitcake.

The shop has been around since 1953, according to owner Brigitte Lehr, and was opened by Hans Speckmann, remembered fondly in Noe Valley for the German bierstube and deli that carried his name (at Church and Duncan, where Uma Casa is now).

For 46 years, the Lehrs, who bought the business from Speckmann’s successor, have provided the go-to spot for shoppers such as Kailyn Fitzgerald. “My husband’s family is from Munich,” says Fitzgerald, “and when I pass by, I get his three favorite things.” For the record, those are a large jar of sauerkraut, dill gherkins, and German mustard. ■



# NOE VALLEY MINISTRY

 Presbyterian Church 415-282-2317  
1021 Sanchez St., between 23rd & 24th  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
Rev. David Brown, Pastor  
Find the livestream links on our website! 

**Sunday Worship**  
Every Sunday, 10:30 am  
Reverend Brown Preaching

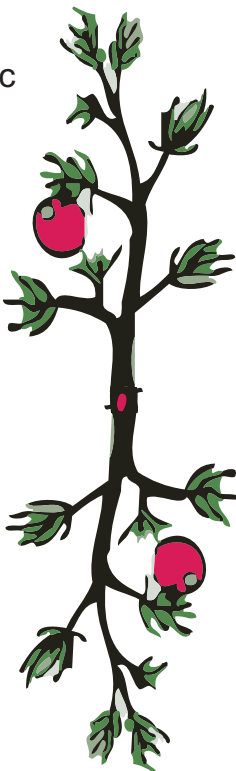
**Labyrinth Walk**  
Thursday, December 9, 6:30 pm  
Candle-lit Meditation with Quiet Music

**Advent Taize Service**  
Sunday, December 12, 10:30 am  
Worship Service of Music & Prayer

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Friday, December 24, 5 pm  
Service of Lessons and Carols  
With Noe Valley Ministry Choir & Guest Musicians

**New Year's Eve Service**  
Friday, December 31, 6 pm  
"A Time to..."  
Meditative Service for "Letting Go"  
Service of Rededication

As we provide refreshments after Worship Services,  
in keeping with the City's guidance, we require all  
worshippers to be vaccinated if they can be.  
[www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org)





**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**  
**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24TH • 4:30 p.m.**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25TH • 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD**  
**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon in Church**



**St. Paul's Catholic Church**  
221 Valley St. • San Francisco, CA 94131  
415.648.7538  
[stpaulsf.org](http://stpaulsf.org)

# Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church

A Joyful Community of the Spirit



**Christmas Services:**  
**Blue Christmas, December 19** at 2:00 pm  
For those who struggle at Christmastime  
**Christmas Eve, December 24**  
Storytelling & Carols at 5:00 pm  
Child care available  
**Christmas Day, December 25** at 9:00 am

**Weekly Services:**  
**Sundays** at 8:00 am and 10:00 am  
**Wednesday Evening Prayer** at 6:30 pm  
**Morning Prayer**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:30 am  
**Contemplative Prayer**  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday at 9:00 am

All Christmas, Sunday and Morning Prayer  
services are both in person and online.  
Others are online only.

Email [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org) for connection info.

**Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church**  
101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, 94131  
(@ Diamond Hts. Blvd., Across from Safeway)  
Phone: 415.285.9540

[www.staidansf.org](http://www.staidansf.org)





Bethany Church Invites You To:

*Christmas Eve Services*

4pm Family Service  
7pm Lessons & Carols

1270 Sanchez St. | [bethanysf.org](http://bethanysf.org)



**SMALL FRY'S**

Happy Holidays from Your Friends at **SMALL FRY'S**  
3985 24th Street in the Heart of Noe Valley  
(415) 648-3954 [www.smallfrys.com](http://www.smallfrys.com)



# J-Line Option: Tunnel at Night and Bus During the Day?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to consider returning downtown sub-  
way service to the J-Church at its Dec.  
7 meeting. The agency could elect to  
fully restore the line to its former  
downtown route as soon as February.  
The board may decide, however, to  
restore subway service only during the  
evening, when there is less congestion  
in the tunnel that runs under Market  
Street to the Embarcadero. To address  
the concerns of J-Church riders, the  
board could approve adding bus service  
every 30 minutes to provide a single-  
seat ride from Noe Valley to the  
Embarcadero during the day.  
Another option for the SFMTA board  
would be to keep the shortened J-  
Church route in place, which appears to  
be the preference of the transit agency.  
SFMTA officials have emphasized that  
keeping the J-Church trains out of the  
downtown tunnel has resulted in a 75  
percent reduction in delays for the other  
subway lines that continue to go under  
ground.  
“This change allows us to limit the  
number of trains in the subway, reduce  
congestion, and improve reliability for  
the entire Muni Metro system,” noted  
SFMTA spokesperson Mariana Maguire  
in a blog post about the changes under  
consideration.  
Kathy Setian, a Noe Valley resident  
who founded the Restore the J  
Workgroup, told the *Voice* in November  
that there was “absolutely” a chance  
that the downtown subway would  
return to the line early next year.  
“We have demonstrated to every sin-  
gle city agency and every body of gov-  
ernment and every committee and sub-  
committee that there is overwhelming  
popular support for returning the J to  
the subway. There is almost zero oppo-  
sition to it,” said Setian. “The question  
is do we have a representative govern-  
ment? That is the only thing we don’t  
know.”  
**Flagging Down a One-Seat Ride**  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, cur-  
rently serving as chair of the San  
Francisco County Transportation  
Authority, says based on his conversa-  
tions with SFMTA staff, it appears the  
transit agency prefers to leave the J-  
Church route as is, stopped at Duboce.  
“They [the SFMTA] are very resist-  
ant to going back to the subway service  
as it was before the pandemic. I can  
understand that because subway service  
before the pandemic was terrible,” said  
Mandelman, who had supported the  
route change when it was first dis-  
cussed back in 2019.  
“But this burden is being unfairly  
borne by Noe Valley residents, who no  
longer have a one-seat ride going  
downtown or coming home. What I  
said was I don’t like what they clearly  
prefer from a technical perspective at  
the staff level [which is] to keep it the  
way it is. I don’t think that is okay.”  
While he has called on the SFMTA  
to consider a variety of ways to bring  
the J-Church trains back downtown,  
Mandelman said he hoped the SFMTA  
board, at the very least, would look at  
two options on the table: returning the J  
trains to the subway tunnel full-time  
but at longer intervals, or running them  
in the tunnel only at night while provid-  
ing bus service to downtown during the  
day.  
“People in Noe Valley, seniors, and  
disabled folks need a one-seat ride

downtown,” said Mandelman. “If you  
really don’t want to do that during the  
day with a train, then can we do a one-  
seat ride with a bus and have a J bus?”  
Mandelman also proposed sign  
changes to indicate where the J-Church  
trains would ultimately stop, with the  
shortened route designated “J-Duboce”  
and the longer tunnel ride, if eventually  
approved, dubbed “J-Downtown.”  
“That to me doesn’t seem or should-  
n’t be rocket science. It seems concep-  
tually doable,” said Mandelman.  
“Relieving congestion in the subway  
tunnel is important for my constituents  
who get on K, L, or M lines and the N-  
Judah. But we need to do something to  
make it up to the people who have lost  
out in this reallocation of Muni service,  
and those are my constituents in Noe  
Valley.”  
**Second Elevator Possible**  
Regardless of what happens to the J-  
Church route, the SFMTA is moving  
forward on updating the line’s stops at  
the Church and Market streets intersec-  
tion in order to address the concerns  
Restore the J Workgroup and others  
have raised over the past year. It plans  
to expand the sidewalk along Church  
Street near the outbound J-Church stop  
and add covered seating for passengers  
to use during inclement weather.  
Better lighting and attractive  
streetscape elements would also be  
added to the area. Those items are also  
to be voted on by the SFMTA board at  
the December meeting. If approved, the  
transit agency would hold public design  
meetings in 2022 and construction  
could begin in 2025.  
“We plan to do the transfer improve-  
ment benefits regardless of whether the  
J returns to the subway,” said SFMTA  
project manager Michael Rhodes dur-  
ing a recent virtual meeting about the J-  
Church accessibility project.  
The SFMTA is also looking at  
whether a second elevator into the  
Church Station could be added, said  
Rhodes, so transfers would be easier at  
Church Street at Market.  
“SFMTA policy is to have redundan-  
cy of elevators everywhere,” he said.  
“It is clear this location is especially  
important, especially having access to  
that south side of Market. It is absolute-  
ly going to be a priority.”  
**A Return to Church and 30th**  
Also, next year the SFMTA is  
expected to re-focus on improving J-  
Church service on Church Street  
between 23rd and 30th streets in Noe  
Valley. It had been discussing a number  
of changes with nearby residents sever-  
al years ago but shelved the plans due  
to the Covid pandemic.  
The plan had called for removal of at  
least one J-Church stop near the inter-  
section of 30th and Church streets,  
swapping out stop signs for traffic stop-  
lights at certain intersections, and  
adding bulb-outs along the street to  
make it safer for pedestrians. A revised  
plan could be brought before the  
SFMTA board by the end of 2022 or  
early 2023.  
“We had a public hearing set for  
March 2020, and you know what hap-  
pened. We will dust off those quick-  
build style proposals,” said Rhodes, in  
order to determine “do any of these still  
make sense to pursue right now?”  
For more information about the pro-  
posed changes to Muni service in 2022,  
visit  
[https://www.sfmta.com/projects/2022-](https://www.sfmta.com/projects/2022-muni-service-network)  
[muni-service-network](https://www.sfmta.com/projects/2022-muni-service-network).  
To follow the future plans for the J-  
Church, visit  
[https://www.sfmta.com/projects/j-](https://www.sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project)  
[church-improvement-project](https://www.sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project). ■

## Remembering Dick Greenberg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

building and named it Patch County,”  
inspired by the patches with which  
Dick’s girlfriend at the time decorated  
the walls.  
“We opened it in December of  
1974,” notes Wayne, “and about four  
years later Dick said, ‘Do you want to  
come in with me on the old Jerry  
Butler’s at 29th and Dolores?’ and I  
said, ‘Go ahead.’  
They named the bar at 1600  
Dolores St. the Wildwood, but it  
wasn’t long before they changed it to  
O’Greenberg’s.  
As their popularity grew, Patch  
County and O’Greenberg’s featured  
bands on the weekends, mixing rock,  
folk, and country with the sounds of  
the jukebox and the pool sticks.  
“Then, around 1981, we created a  
bidding war on a [bar], The  
Connection, at 24th and Church,”  
Wayne continues. “We closed down  
and remodeled the place, and we  
became partners in Noe’s Bar. Then  
around ’82, Dick goes, ‘You take  
Noe’s and I’ll take Patch County.’  
Before the Noe Valley ventures,  
Dick had worked for Wayne’s father,  
Tommy Basso, at the Stage Lounge  
next to the Curran Theater on Market  
Street. Dick had also operated the Hi-  
Fi Room, on what was then Army  
Street.  
“Dick was a very generous person.  
We used to go out to restaurants, and  
he was a big tipper,” remembers  
Wayne.  
“He would give kids money,” adds  
Debbie. “And when some of the older  
Irish women would come in to  
O’Greenberg’s, and they got snock-  
ered, he’d drive each one of them  
home and take them inside. Then their  
kids would come in and say, ‘Thank  
you for getting my mom home.’” On  
the other hand, “Dick kept a pretty  
strict bar, and if you caused problems,  
you’d get 86ed. Then, if you wanted  
back in, you had to come talk to him.”  
Debbie goes on to point out that it  
was the plentiful Irish in Upper Noe  
Valley who, on St. Patrick’s Day in  
1978 over whiskey and corned beef,  
referred to Dick the new owner as  
‘Sean O’Greenberg,’ inspiring him to  
rename the place accordingly.  
**‘Bigger Than Life’**  
Born on April 8, 1932, Dick was  
raised on Treat Avenue in the Mission  
District by parents Joseph, a Polish  
Jew, and Mary, a German Catholic,  
and he was baptized and received first  
communion in the Catholic Church.  
He attended Horace Mann Middle  
School and Mission High School,  
where he won All-City honors as a  
guard/forward on the Bears varsity  
basketball team. He continued that  
sport at City College of San  
Francisco, winning All-State honors in  
1952, and he also played baseball for  
the CCSF Rams.  
“He was just kind of bigger than  
life,” says Debbie. “Growing up in  
sports, we could go almost anywhere  
in the city, and people knew him.  
People felt safe with him, especially  
women.” He also used to be a boxer,  
Wayne notes, as well as a semi-pro  
basketball player. After college, Dick  
joined the House of David basketball  
team, based in a Jewish religious sect,  
and in 1954 toured internationally  
with them as the designated opponents  
of the Harlem Globetrotters.  
Debbie had been raised on the  
Peninsula and was introduced to Dick,  
when he was 45 and she 25, by her  
aunt, Isabelle, who used to provide  
food to the crowd at O’Greenberg’s.  
“Then I moved to Duncan and  
Dolores when I was about 30, and I  
decided to go out to dinner with him,  
because he’d been asking me to. Up to  
that point I hadn’t, since he had quite  
a reputation around the neighbor-  
hood,” she giggles. “Then we dated,  
and I moved in with him when I was  
about 40.”  
They acquired a house in the 400  
block of Day Street. “He put roots  
down. He wasn’t just renting an apart-  
ment or living with a girlfriend.  
Maybe he was just ready to settle  
down when he met me. s  
“And I got him traveling. I think  
that was one of the things that bonded  
us,” she continues. “We did a lot of  
river cruises in Europe. He took me to  
India, though I had no desire to go  
there. And he proposed to me in front  
of the Taj Mahal. November 20th  
would have been our 14th wedding  
anniversary.”  
Despite their globe-hopping, Dick  
and Debbie shared an appreciation of  
a home base. “From the grammar  
school I went to, lots of those people  
lived in Noe Valley,” she points out.  
“And Dick would know customers’  
parents and grandparents. It was a  
very tight community.”  
A lucky few friends got to hear him  
perform on piano. He was fond of jazz  
and Frank Sinatra.  
**Making the Rounds**  
Dick sold O’Greenberg’s in 2013,  
but continued to patronize the bars of  
his former partners and friends. More  
recently he developed the heart condi-  
tion that ultimately claimed his life.  
“He had had four stents in the last  
year, and I have to say that the V.A.  
took very good care of him,” says  
Debbie. Dick had served in the  
Korean War. “I’d made sure that he  
got out of the house every day, espe-  
cially when he wasn’t feeling that  
well. The biggest thing was, I did not  
want him sitting at home watching  
TV. Up until the day before he passed,  
he was out and about.”  
Trips to 24th Street couldn’t deliver  
quite what they used to.  
“You didn’t know anybody any-  
more,” Debbie points out. “A lot of  
his friends had moved or died, and the  
bar scene had changed.”  
Wayne adds, “In the old days, there  
were blue-collar workers, who stayed  
out late. With customers, you  
schmoozed with them, you brought  
food in in the afternoon, you hired  
old-time bartenders. It was like some-  
body’s living room.”  
“But,” Debbie says, “Dick was  
never going to move” from Noe  
Valley. “Never.”  
Sipping a cocktail at her husband’s  
old bar, Debbie is content with the  
chat and the company. “Dick taught  
me many things,” she smiles, “and  
before he passed away, he’d prepared  
me [as to] what to do.”  
On the morning of his fatal heart  
attack, Aug. 7, Dick had gotten up and  
made his own breakfast.  
“Of course,” says Debbie, “you’re  
never really prepared.”  
A celebration of Richard  
Greenberg’s life is planned for April  
2022, on what would have been his  
90th birthday.





Silvia Zeng

Pete Brannigan



Happy Holidays from The Brannigan Team!

We wish you and your friends & family a wonderful holiday season filled with good company and great memories. We look forward to serving you in the New Year!  
-Pete, Silvia, and Vicki

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# OTHER VOICES

memoir, fiction and poetry • the noe valley voice

## HOFFMAN HOUSE

By Kristen Welch

### *In the grand green house*

there was a dad and a mother,  
three sisters, a brother.  
The house full of treasures;  
wallpaper of velvet, a secret hideaway,  
so many rooms, places to play,  
art carved into the attic, with a tiny loft window  
to peek and reveal a magnificent bay.  
In 1973, there was groovy shag carpet, an antique marble hearth,  
a quiet office closet, and phones everywhere,  
so thundering, dark rings could be heard anywhere;  
or the midnight engine’s siren  
before the early morn 11 Hoffman.  
The children in awe of the four stories within her,  
a muffled intercom, letting us know: time for dinner.  
Stairs. So many stairs, needing far-reaching hoses,  
rough red bricks and tiny blue tiles,  
and laundry and dusting for days.

### *In the grand white house*

there were dinners and birthdays,  
celebrations and club meetings,  
Fisher Price, Legos, and Dungeons and Dragons,  
Hours long breakfasts during visits from Aunt Sally,  
a great chair for Santa at Christmas reunions,  
Saturday pancakes after morning cartoons,  
then Sunday Mass, old Channel 44 films.  
The neighborhood kids were the jury  
of her famous chocolate chip oatmeal cookie.  
Pets! Two parakeets, a maze-running mouse,  
a butterscotch cat and one sweet stray, Lady.  
A *Noe Voice* family feature  
of a friendly local business leader.  
Uniforms of glaring red plaid, for scouts of the sea,  
stiff white shirts, she ironed endlessly.  
A first microwave, 10-speed and Walkman,  
Cable TV, then a brand new Atari.



I 12 Hoffman Ave.: Welch family friend J. Harvey painted a portrait of the home in the 1980s.

### *In the grand brown house*

There were prom parties, sleepovers, seances and silence.  
Teenagers creeping in late at night,  
hoping not to disturb, not turning on a light.  
He teaching all to drive a stick shift and automatic.  
A wagon, a Dart, a Duster, a Rabbit.  
Her sewing sounds filling the attic,  
with music by Denver and Diamond and Rogers;  
for Christmas surprises and matching twin smocks,  
costumes and drapes and flower girl frocks.  
There were flagpole crash stitches, sickness, and surgeries.  
A most devastating transition:  
a cousin’s call, in the kitchen.  
One day while awaiting the battle of the Bay,  
its strength a second time tested:  
it groaned, it shuddered, forever it swayed,  
once again enduring a calamitous quake.  
Grandchildren came, and Great Grandma, too.  
There were weddings and showers, and the neighbors kept changing.  
The final excuse to shelter them all:  
Him given the honor of 2018 Parade Marshal.

Then...it was quiet and still.  
The dad and the mother deserved rest from that hill,  
after providing and working, year after year.  
It was time to return to the place that she yearned.  
Thank you, old house, for your memories dear.  
For not just being a house,  
but a home we’ll always hold near.

The Noe Valley Voice thanks Kristen Welch for sending us her beautiful poem, which she wrote as a gift to her parents upon their recent retirement to Sonoma and decision to sell their family home. In her accompanying email, Welch told us her parents had moved to Hoffman Avenue in 1973. “My brother and sisters and I attended St. Philip’s School (go Bruins!), and my parents were very active in the school and parish community organizations. My sister scooped ice cream at Bud’s, my brother had a neighborhood paper route for the Chronicle, and my mom [Betty Welch] worked for a short time at Glen 5 & 10. My dad [Bill Welch] ran a longstanding business nearby in the Mission.” The family was featured in a short story in the November 1979 Voice. Kristen Welch moved with her husband and two children to Petaluma in 2012. She now works at an elementary school in the area and has started writing short fiction “just for fun.”



New Reflection: The house turned blue, gray, and gold in 2021, and may have a new family soon.  
Photos courtesy Kristen Welch





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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Still a Seller’s Market

By Corrie M. Anders

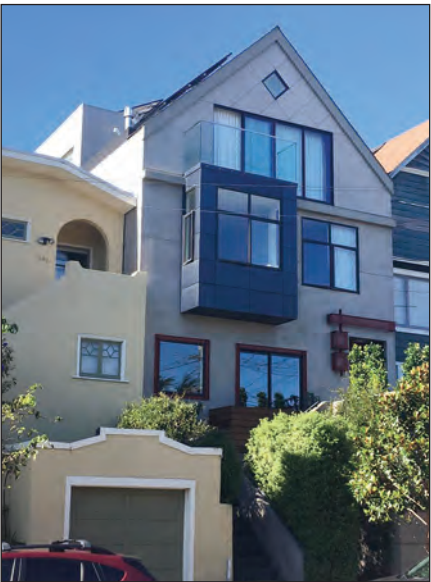
Shoppers took a leap of faith (and cash) in October, paying top dollar to purchase 16 single-family homes in Noe Valley.

In their scramble to land a piece of the neighborhood, buyers paid an average 17 percent more than the home sellers’ asking price, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco. That overbid was the highest premium paid since March 2018, when shoppers upped their offers by a stunning 19 percent.

They also inked their contracts in 12 days on average, in some cases even foregoing inspections.

Corcoran President Randall Kostick said a variety of issues motivated people to buy in October, generally considered the tail end of the home-buying season in San Francisco.

For one, house hunters feared mortgage interest rates might continue to rise, he said. (On Oct. 21, the 30-year fixed-rate average was 3.09 percent, up from 2.80 percent in October a year ago, according to Freddie Mac, a federal housing finance agency. On Nov. 18, 2021, the rate stood at 3.10 percent.)



A stylish home on Douglass Street with 4,006 square feet of living space sold in October for \$4,995,000. Built in 2013, it featured five bathrooms, four baths, and a separate two-story cottage.



A buyer paid \$2.4 million, 20 percent above the asking price, to snag a condominium in this 25th Street building. The three-bedroom unit touted an elevator, gourmet kitchen appliances, and a master suite with a gas fireplace and a bathroom with heated floors.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

In addition, buyers were concerned about inflation.

“They are seeing gas and food prices rise,” Kostick said. “People are worried about inflation, so there is still high demand to get into properties while the getting is good.”

On top of that, he said, there were not enough houses for sale in Noe Valley to meet the robust demand.

So, it was inevitable buyers would engage in competitive bidding. Of the 16 homes that closed escrow, Kostick said, 14 sold above the sticker price. Just one was below asking. The average sales price was \$2,895,625.

“Sometimes we see these rises in overbidding because people are tired of losing out” in previous bids, “so they say I’m going to make an offer that can’t be refused,” he said.

### Top-Selling House

A buyer had to come up with “only” 4.2 percent extra to win the keys to the most expensive house sold in Noe Valley during October. The \$4,995,000 offer came in just seven days after the seller listed the property for \$4,795,000.

Built in 2013, the three-story home is a five-bedroom, four-bath gem in the 600 block of Douglass Street, between 23rd and Alvarado streets.

With a unique design, an Edwardian peaked roof, and 4,006 square feet of living space, the home featured a contemporary open-plan living-dining room and chef’s kitchen, a master suite with high ceilings, exposed beams, a fireplace, a bathroom with soaking tub and walk-in shower, and a walk-out balcony. There was a home theater, a

### 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						
October 2021	16	\$1,590,000	\$4,995,000	\$2,895,625	12	117%
September 2021	17	\$1,220,000	\$4,010,000	\$2,946,918	17	112%
October 2020	14	\$1,445,000	\$5,600,000	\$3,077,500	14	106%
Condominiums/TICs						
October 2021	16	\$934,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,553,438	15	115%
September 2021	12	\$1,100,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,815,000	18	113%
October 2020	12	\$900,000	\$2,180,000	\$1,520,417	25	103%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
October 2021	1	\$2,160,000	\$2,160,000	\$2,160,000	43	100%
September 2021	3	\$1,600,000	\$2,107,500	\$1,902,500	18	110%
October 2020	3	\$1,701,000	\$3,600,000	\$2,750,333	62	93%
5+-unit buildings						
October 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2021	1	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	309	96%
October 2020	1	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	134	84%

\*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Global Living San Francisco for providing sales data. NVV12/2021

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range November 2021	Average November 2021	Average October 2021	Average November 2020
Studio	14	\$1,500 - \$2,650	\$1,997 / mo.	\$2,061 / mo.	\$1,968 / mo.
1-bdrm	44	\$1,990 - \$4,000	\$2,638 / mo.	\$2,726 / mo.	\$2,692 / mo.
2-bdrm	51	\$2,350 - \$7,000	\$3,774 / mo.	\$3,921 / mo.	\$3,526 / mo.
3-bdrm	22	\$3,995 - \$8,850	\$5,686 / mo.	\$5,365 / mo.	\$5,241 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$5,375 - \$18,500	\$8,805 / mo.	\$10,887 / mo.	\$7,607 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 138 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Nov. 2–9, 2021. In November 2020, there were 300 listings. NVV12/2021

wet bar, and a two-car garage equipped with EV-charging.

The Douglass Street address also had an added attraction: a one-bedroom, one-bath cottage in the back yard.

### Condos Average \$1.5 Million

The buy-now mood was also evident among those with a hankering for the condominium life. By paying an average 15 percent more than the asking price, buyers came away with 16 condos. When the dust cleared, the average sales price was \$1,553,438.

The priciest condo in October was a three-bedroom, three-bath residence in the 4200 block of 25th Street, between Castro and Noe streets. The \$2.4 million offer was 20.3 percent higher than

the seller’s asking price (\$1,995,000).

Located in a two-unit building constructed in 2002, the home had been renovated last year to include an upscale kitchen, a master suite with a gas fireplace and a bathroom with heated floors, and French doors leading to a private patio. The unit also featured an inside elevator, a shared rear garden with a fire pit, and one-car parking. ■

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters.. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Include your name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) We look forward to hearing from you.



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Action-SF.com - Mid-Terms Kick-Off Meetings Dec. 5., Jan. 9.



# Writers!

You're invited to submit your work of fiction, non-fiction, poetry or essay for inclusion in the January 2022 edition of *The Noe Valley Voice*.

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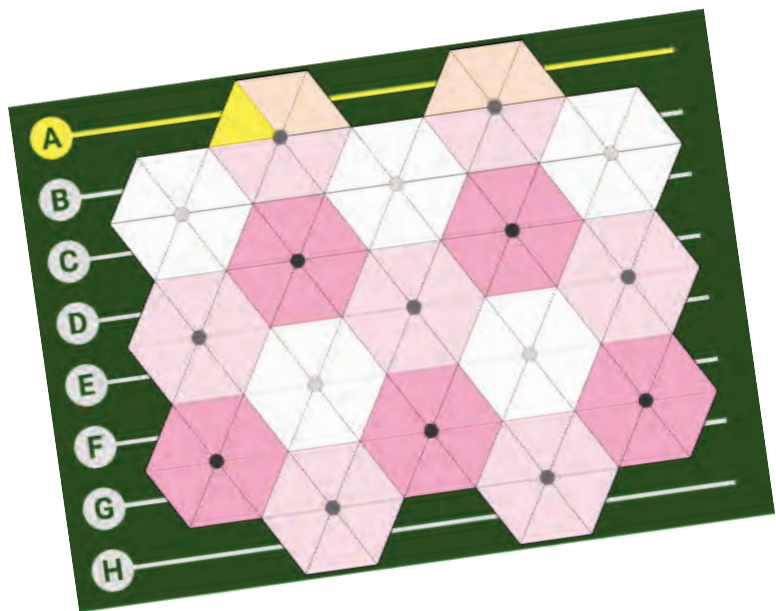
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Deadline is Saturday, December 18th  
Thank you!

*To Raise The Words*

If you liked Michael Blake's Rows Garden puzzle in this issue of the Noe Valley Voice, you'll find many more to enjoy at:

**[gardenpartycrosswords.com](http://gardenpartycrosswords.com)**



Kids ramp up their skateboard skills, courtesy of Rec & Park's new Mobile Rec division. Photo Chris Faust

### Time to Register for Winter Classes

Rec & Park's Mobile Rec staff brought skateboarding and happy faces to Upper Noe Rec Center on a sunny Saturday in November, along with BMX biking, disc golf, and other activities. Mobile Rec travels from park to park providing equipment and tips to get children safely started or to help them improve their skills. Adults are revving up too, in anticipation that January will bring a fresh start to classes at the park, including Junior Warriors basketball, yoga, volleyball, boot camp, Argentine tango, pilates, and Shred and Butter skateboarding.

**Registration** for activities in the **Winter Session** is set to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, **Dec. 18**. Many classes will remain available for drop-in. However, if you register ahead of time, you'll ensure your place. Be aware class sizes may be smaller than pre-pandemic because of the need to spread out.

The lottery to go to **Camp Mather** next summer opens **Dec. 2** and closes **Jan. 6**. Proof of vaccination will be required for all vaccine-eligible guests. For more information, see <https://sfrecpark.org/443/Camp-Mather>, contact Carmelita Rogers at 415-831-2781, or email [matherreservations@sfgov.org](mailto:matherreservations@sfgov.org).

Note that at Upper Noe Rec, 295 Day St., everyone must wear a mask at all times while indoors and while in proximity to children. ID and proof of vaccination are required for anyone 12 and over. Check **[www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com)** or call the Upper Noe office 415-970-8061 for more information and updates.

—Chris Faust, Chair, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

### Upper Noe Winter Schedule Beginning Jan. 4, 2022

Rec Center Hours: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Auditorium Free Play**  
10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays,  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

**Tuesday**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball  
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates  
3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Junior Warriors  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

**Wednesday**  
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais  
2 to 4 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)  
4 to 5 p.m. Girls Volleyball  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball  
(advanced only)

**Thursday**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball  
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth),  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Adult)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp

**Friday**  
1 to 4 p.m. Argentine Tango  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult),  
2 to 5 p.m. (Youth)  
3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Shred and Butter  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball  
(advanced only)

**Saturday**  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Zumba



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# SHORT TAKES

## Honors Grow for Ruth Asawa

Famed Noe Valley sculptor Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) was just inducted into the California Hall of Fame and may soon receive another honor. District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston has introduced a resolution to rename the Buchanan pedestrian mall in Japantown as Ruth Asawa Plaza. Two bronze sculptures by Asawa, the Origami Fountains, stand in the mall.

Preston said in his presentation to the Board of Supervisors in November, “It is only fitting we add Ruth Asawa’s name to the heart of Japantown. Her story is one of tremendous perseverance and unending determination.” He cited raising six children in Noe Valley while creating monumental art throughout the city as evidence of her determination. Asawa also is well-known in public school circles for creating and defending arts programs for elementary through high school students.

The next step for the renaming proposal is a review by the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

## Find Your Flow

Dolores Flow, a community of rhythmic prop dancers, invite you to join their Holiday Glow, a glow-in-the-dark dance party and performance Saturday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Town Square, 3861 24th St. The group uses LED-lit flags, scarves, hula hoops, juggler props, and poi, an illuminated string with a ball on each end, to create a flow of light patterns and illuminations.

Feel free to bring your own LED props or borrow some from Dolores Flow. Group members are happy to give instructions.

A musical mix of “chill holiday grooves” will be provided by Dolores



## A Brush With Impressionism

Painter and ikebana floral designer Tisha Kenny has combined her love of impressionism with Asian brush painting in an exhibit of landscapes and floral paintings at Gallery Sanchez through Jan. 30.

The artist, a retired nurse practitioner and founder of the Health and Human Resource Education Center, has been studying the practice of ikebana and Chinese brush painting since 1985, when recurrent breast cancer drove her to seek a healing practice.

Inspired by the colors and immediacy of impressionist painters such as Monet, Kenny says she uses the sumi-e painting technique to express her “spiritual journeys through the experience of just doing art.”

The gallery, within the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church at 1021 Sanchez St., is open by appointment. Contact Kenny at tishakenny@gmail.com.

—Kit Cameron



Your donations of new or used pet coats or toys to the Full Belly Bus will be accepted from December through February.

Flow founder Lane Lillquist, according to spokesperson Chi Energy, who is not only a flow artist but a former national and international baton-twirling champion.

If you can’t make the scene Dec. 18, Dolores Flow practices and performs Sundays in Dolores Park from noon to sundown on the grass south of the tennis courts. Chi Energy says the group hopes to give people an appreciation of the beauty and fun of flow art and inspire young people to try it out. It’s non-competitive and mutually supportive.

Holiday Glow is a family-friendly free event. Be sure to dress warmly!

## Noe Valley Going to the Dogs?

Do you have any new or gently used dog coats or jackets or dog or cat toys lying around? Our canine friends need a warm winter coat and maybe some toys this holiday season. Contributions of either kind are gratefully accepted December through February during the fifth annual Dog Coat Drive organized by the Full Belly Bus mobile pet care team, a project of Noe Valley pet pal Paula Benton. Full Belly Bus donates the coats and toys, as well as pet food, to people who are working to end their homelessness.

You can donate items at the Noe Valley Pet Company, 1451 Church St. Find out more about Full Belly Bus at [www.fullbellybus.org](http://www.fullbellybus.org).

## Friction, Lieder, Ensemble and Thorsteinsdottir

Give the gift of music and take a friend to one of four live classical concerts happening locally this month.

The Friction Quartet of Doug Machiz on cello, Rachyl Martinez on viola, and Otis Harriel and Kevin Rogers on violin will premiere six works they commissioned from composers Carolina Bragg, Sofia Belimova, Ben Champion, Theodore Haber, Isaac Schankler, and Kari Watson. Hear what’s new Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Tickets are just \$20 at [www.friction-quartet.com](http://www.friction-quartet.com).

The next day, Sunday, Dec. 5, also at the Noe Valley Ministry, the Lieder Alive! team of mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich and pianist Jeffrey LaDeur perform songs about “Love, Death, Wit and Wisdom” from Barber, Brahms, Cohen, Purcell, Ravel, and Walker at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 general and \$75 for reserved seating. Make your purchase at [www.liederalive.org](http://www.liederalive.org).

Later that day, at 7:30 p.m., the trio that makes up Ensemble San Francisco will play a concert of pieces by Shostakovich, Brahms, Mozart, Schubert, and Halvorsen, and a new work by Polina Nazaykinskaya, at St. Aidan’s Church at 101 Goldmine Drive. To buy tickets online via Eventbrite or for access to live-streaming, go to <http://www.musiconthehill>.

## Make December Merry and Bright

December is full of free festivities in the neighborhood celebrating Advent, Chanukah, and Christmas.

The month starts off with the lighting of the community **Christmas Tree** on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St. Enjoy holiday treats while you ooh and aah over the sparkling lights on the 15-foot artificial fir and enjoy singing carols with the popular a cappella group The Loose Interpretations. They’re sure to help you get your ho-ho-ho on.

The next night, Sunday, Dec. 5, is the last night of Chanukah and the biggest party of the eight-night Jewish **Festival of Lights**. Head back to the Town Square at 3 p.m. for “Chanukah Wonderland,” where you can nosh on gelt and donuts, spin a dreidel, make your own menorah, see a magic show, and listen to live music as you await the lighting of the giant menorah at 5 p.m.

An unusual public event has been planned by the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, an **Advent Labyrinth Walk** Thursday, Dec. 9. Organizer Debbie Atencio-Baioni explains that you will walk a drawn design on the floor of the upstairs sanctuary of the church at 1021 Sanchez St., and “connect in the moment to the spiritual.” A cellist will play peaceful Taizé music in the background. Everyone is welcome any time from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Your mobile meditation will take 15 to 20 minutes.

Our local businesses have lots of holiday gift ideas (see the story on page 1 this issue), but you can also stock up at the **Baltic Christmas Fair**, which is back after a pandemic hiatus Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Latvian Lutheran Church, 425 Hoffman Ave. Buy handcrafted ceramics, embroidered clothing, amber jewelry, ethnic dolls, greeting cards, and home-made jams, bread, and other baked items from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

And what celebration of the holidays is complete without a preliminary chat with **Santa**? Check in with the jolly old guy Sunday, Dec. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. The bookstore also has a **Giving Tree** (thanks, Shel Silverstein!) through Christmas Eve. Pick a leaf with a child’s gender and age noted on it and buy a book for them at a 10 percent discount. Books will be distributed by the Children’s Book Project.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, there will be two events on 24th Street. First, you’ll want to bring an LED light and your dancing shoes to the **Holiday Glow** dance party at the Town Square from 6 to 7:30 p.m. After a half hour of glowing, take a break and head for Bernie’s at 3966 24th St., where the **Holiday Trolley** is scheduled to stop from 6:30 to 7 p.m., with carolers, hot chocolate, and giveaways from the city’s “Shop & Dine in the 49” campaign.

For more Santa sightings and seasonal fun sponsored by neighborhood businesses, go to <https://whimlocal.com/event/noevalley>. December activities sponsored by members of the **Noe Valley Merchants** and Professionals Association will pop up on the site as soon as they are imagined.

Finally, through Dec. 14 everyone can support the Police Department’s holiday **Toy Drive** by donating new, unwrapped toys to their collection barrel at our neighborhood Walgreens, 1333 Castro St.

—Richard May

Masks and proof of vaccination are required for all three events.

If you prefer a little liquid cheer with your classical sounds, check out Noe Music’s Pop Up Happy Hour Monday night, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Wildhawk cocktail bar at 3464 19th St., which may qualify as Greater Noe Valley. Tickets are \$45, which includes a cocktail, light eats, and a solo performance by Icelandic cellist Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir. Space is limited. Tickets can be found at [www.noemu-sic.org](http://www.noemu-sic.org).

## Russia, Latin American Cooking, and Poetry

There are three book events in the hood this month, all virtual.

Folio Books hosts “Born in the USSR, Raised in California” on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m., with



Ensemble San Francisco, performing Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, is composed of viola player Matt Young, violinist Rebecca Jackson-Picht, and pianist Elizabeth Schumann. *MGroif Photography*

authors Yelena Furman, Maggie Levantovskaya, Masha Rumer, Tatyana Sundeyeva, Vlada Teper, Sasha Vasilyuk, and Olga Zilberbourg. They will read excerpts from their fiction and nonfiction on immigration, identity, family history, and language. (On Sunday, Dec. 5, Rumer and Zilberbourg will appear live at a book-signing at Folio, 3957 24th St., at 11 a.m.)

Go to [www.foliosf.com/events](http://www.foliosf.com/events) to RSVP.

Omnivore Books on Food is promoting a Monday, Dec. 6, conversation between super chef and restaurateur Virgilio Martinez and TV food personality Andrew Zimmern, organized by Phaidon, the publisher of Martinez’s latest book, *The Latin American Cookbook* (\$49.95, 432 pages, illustrated). Showtime is 5 p.m. Pacific. Sign up and buy the book at <https://omnivorebooks.myshopify.com>.

Dec. 13, 7 p.m., the Odd Mondays reading series presents “Poetry, a Gift Worth Giving,” with four poets reading from their new collections. Ananda Lima will read from *Mother/Land*, Christine No from *Whatever Love Means*, Steven Riel from *Edgemere*, and Maxim D. Shrayr from *Of Politics and Pandemics*. Email [oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Books are available at Folio Books, 3957 24th St.

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.



# OF PETS AND PUMPKINS

It was a wild and at times furry October in Noe Valley as a Pet Parade/Contest invaded the neighborhood. And then there was the Great Pumpkins Massacre at Noe Courts and the Slow Sanchez citizens filling that street with pedestrian power and all the colors of the fall rainbow.

Can the Christmas holiday season hope to compare?

Photos by Art Bodner



Far left: Debating which Slow Sanchez candy is best.  
Left: Pet Parade contest winners — the French Bulldogs as characters from *The Office*.  
Top: The Parade.



Carving contest winner Justin, age 10.



Carving contest winner Fergus, age 10.



Right: Polly Marshall with Bella (aka Yoda) at the Oct. 31 Howl-a-Ween Pet Parade on Church Street sponsored by Noe Valley Pet Company and Maxwell's Pet Bar.



Waiting for judgment at the Pumpkin Carving held by State Sen. Scott Wiener Oct. 30 at Noe Courts.

Below: Halloween revelers don't need sidewalks when a street is available.





# STORE TREK

**COCOON DAY SPA**  
3910 24th St. near Sanchez Street  
415-890-2966  
<https://cocoondayspa.com/noe-valley/>

After two years of a global pandemic, local residents are ready for some personal pampering. That’s the discovery of Cocoon Day Spa, which opened its doors in Noe Valley to a crowd of fresh faces eager to book a massage or other skin-care service.

Co-owner Sarah Redmond suspected there was an unmet demand in the neighborhood for the day spa’s offerings when she signed the lease three years ago for the storefront at 3910 24th St., the former home of athletic clothier See Jane Run. But she couldn’t know for sure until the business was up and running.

It took a year to excavate a below-ground area to house additional treatment rooms for the day spa. Then city permit requirements caused further delays.

When Redmond and her co-owner, Kimi Mercado, finally welcomed their first client on Oct. 18, they assumed it would take months before they’d see all eight of their treatment rooms fully booked. Turns out their first booked-solid day came within three weeks of opening, and the salon has been busy ever since.

“We had no idea of the demand for massage in this neighborhood,” said Redmond.

The business has had to hire three additional full-time massage therapists, bringing the total number of employees to 23. Since the massage team is evenly split between men and women, clients can request a therapist based on the gender they are most comfortable with. They are escorted into their assigned treatment room, then given time to disrobe down to their comfort level before lying on the massage table under the covers.

Massage options vary from an “essential relaxation massage” (\$130 for an hour; \$190 for 90 minutes) to couple massages (\$270 for an hour; \$380 for 90 minutes). Also popular are the day spa’s lymphatic massages (ranging in price from \$190 to \$240 depending on duration and whether aromatherapy is included). According to the day spa, such a massage assists a person’s body in maintaining proper blood circulation, body fluid balance, and immune function.

“People have been so sedentary due to Covid, so they are coming in for that specialized kind of treatment,” said Redmond. “We used to do two or three a week and now average four a day.”

A native of Ireland, Redmond immigrated to the U.S. in 2005 and launched her day spa business two years later. The



Co-owners Sarah Redmond and Kimi Mercado report that Noe Valley’s Cocoon Day Spa has been so busy its first month, they’ve already hired more massage therapists. Photo by Art Bodner

original name was Cocoon Urban Day Spa, but Redmond dropped the “urban” after opening a location in Oakland’s more suburban Rockridge district.

She chose Cocoon due to the pod-like feel of the treatment rooms at her original location, which is still on First Street in San Francisco’s South of Market area. Mercado had been its manager but moved to Charleston, S.C., last year after the SOMA spa was forced to temporarily close due to Covid. (It briefly reopened in July last year, only to be ordered closed again until mid-January.)

Mercado, who had been living in Noe Valley, moved back earlier this year to assist Redmond with opening in this neighborhood. She serves as Cocoon’s general manager.

“It’s been a labor of love,” Mercado said. “The neighborhood is excited to have us. We’ve gotten a good vibe.”

Facial treatments range from a 30-minute “Peel Bar” (\$135) to a 100-minute Microcurrent Deluxe Facial (\$298). The latter includes an enzyme mask, lymphat-

ic face massage, microcurrent treatment to exfoliate the skin, LED light therapy, extractions, neck and shoulder massage, and a variety of skincare products.

Those products, such as skin cleansers and moisturizers by SkinCeuticals and the Hungarian brand Eminence Organic Skin Care, are for sale (\$40 to \$200) and displayed in the day spa’s entrance area. Women’s clothing, such as Kashwere robes (\$165) and Heartloom jackets (\$179), are also available for purchase.

The day spa has a dedicated space for manicures and pedicures, which can be booked as added services or individual appointments. Other services include waxing and tanning. For the holidays and beyond, Cocoon offers gift cards.

In compliance with Covid restrictions, customers are required to wear masks unless they are getting a facial. Staff members all wear masks and are fully vaccinated, said Redmond.

The day spa differs from that of the nearby SkinSpirit, as it doesn’t offer medical spa treatments. Thus the two businesses are not in direct competition with each other, noted Redmond.

Cocoon’s interior spaces feature white walls, glass orb chandeliers, wood flooring, and candles in its signature scent of pomegranate and vanilla. It is switching out the seating it opened with in October for lounge chairs that can provide a more relaxing experience.

Nearly two dozen of its regular clients at the SOMA location have booked treatments at the new Noe Valley spa.

“A lot more people are working at home,” said Redmond. A nighttime party to introduce the day spa to the neighborhood has been planned for Dec. 2.

Cocoon Day Spa is open Monday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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## Calendar December 2021

**Dec. 1-14:** Bring new, unwrapped toys for the SFPD's Holiday TOY DRIVE to the collection barrel at Walgreens, 1333 Castro.

**Dec. 1-31:** Lola's Art Gallery shows local artists. Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875 lolasanfrancisco.com.

**Dec. 1-31:** Join the gardening crew at JURI COMMONS (Guerrero, San Jose Ave., 25th, 26th). RSVP meetup.com/juri-commoners.

**Dec. 1-Feb. 28:** Mobile pet care team Full Belly Bus hosts its fifth annual DOG COAT & TOY drive at Noe Valley Pet Co., 1451 Church, to benefit homeless dogs. 635-1007; fullbellybus.org.

**Dec. 4:** The BALTIC Christmas Fair at the Latvian Church features crafts and baked goods from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. 10 am-3 pm. 425 Hoffman. 647-9398.

**Dec. 4:** Noe's TREE LIGHTING celebration, with the Loose Interpretations, runs from 5 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 4:** The Friction Quartet performs a CONCERT premiering six new commissioned works at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. frictionquartet.com.

**Dec. 4 & 5:** Seven immigrant writers read from their work at "Born in the USSR, Raised in California," a virtual event sponsored by Folio Books, 4 pm (RSVP bit.ley/dec4folio); on Dec. 5, a live book-signing by Masha Rumer and Olga Zilberbourg begins at 11 am. 3957 24th. foliosf.com; 821-3477.

**Dec. 4-25:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm (8 to 9 am for seniors). 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

**Dec. 5:** The Noe Valley Town Square offers free Moxie YOGA at 11 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 5:** CHANUKAH Wonderland features a magic show, music, a gelt drop, and menorah lighting, 3 to 5:30 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 5:** LIEDER Alive! gives a concert of music by Barber, Brahms, Cohen, Purcell, Ravel, and Walker. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org.

**Dec. 5:** Ensemble San Francisco gives a CONCERT of Brahms, Mozart, and more at Music on the Hill. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org.

**Dec. 5 & Jan. 9:** ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com.

**Dec. 6:** Virgilio Martinez discusses *The LATIN AMERICAN Cookbook* virtually with Andrew Zimmerman. 5 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; Register at omnivorebooks.com.

**Dec. 9:** Noe Valley Ministry holds an Advent LABYRINTH WALK with a cellist playing Taizé music. 6:30-7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org.

**Dec. 11:** A Winter HOLIDAY SALE features local women artists selling handmade jewelry, textiles, ceramics, soaps and candles. 10 am-6 pm. 307 Cortland. 992-1348.

**Dec. 12:** SANTA visits Folio Books to read stories from 2 to 4 pm. 3957 24th. foliosf.com; 821-3477.

**Dec. 12:** Hear polka music by Innuendo, with Big Lou on accordion and Kit on viola da gamba, at ACOUSTIC SUNDAY. 2 to 4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 13:** Noe Music's Pop-Up HAPPY HOUR at the Wildhawk bar features music by Icelandic cellist Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir. 6:30 pm. 3464 19th St. noemusic.org.

**Dec. 13:** ODD MONDAYS presents poets Ananda Lima, Christine No, Steven Riel, and Maxim D. Shryer. 7 pm. Find Zoom link at Odd Mondays Facebook page or email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

**Dec. 18:** Rhythm & Motion offers a dance workout from 4 to 5 pm; bring a LED prop to the Holiday GLOW DANCE from 6 to 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

**Dec. 18:** A HOLIDAY TROLLEY makes a stop in front of Bernie's Coffee for caroling, hot chocolate, and giveaways, 6:30-7 p.m. 3966 24th. www.shopdine49.com.

**Dec. 26:** The B Street EKLECTIK vocal guitar duo plays 2 to 4 pm at Acoustic Sunday at the Noe Valley Town Square. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.



and now for the  
**RUMORS**  
behind the news

Robbers and Oysters and  
Rats, Oh My

By Mazook

NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING: On Monday, Nov. 8, regular visitors to Walgreens were surprised when they encountered the store’s front steel gate closed, without explanation. Rumors started flying that our Walgreens, at 1333 Castro, must be one of the several stores the company had announced in October it was closing for good, allegedly because of “organized retail crime” at the stores.

I parked the Mazookmobile in the store’s empty parking lot and went to the back door and hollered, “Hello? Hello?” One of the managers came to the door and told me, “We are closed for maintenance.” When I asked why, he simply said, “I don’t know. I just got here.”

When I asked several neighbors on Jersey Street near Castro, they all told me that the store probably had a rat invasion like the one they’d been experiencing ever since the city started digging up Castro Street to install new waste pipes. Said neighbor Joel Panzer, “Everybody on the street was complaining about the rats that were displaced by the digging, which seemed endless.”

A sign went up on the Walgreen’s gate, but it took Amy Graff, the news editor at SFGate.com, to fully explain the closure. She reported Nov. 12 that the store was “temporarily closed this week because of a ‘severe rat infestation,’ and the store will not reopen until it passes an inspection, a report from the San Francisco Department of Public Health revealed.” She further explained that the health department had ordered the closure of the store on Nov. 8 due to “imminent health hazards that could not be immediately corrected.”

Graff continued: “A report from the inspector noted that food was ‘contaminated and/or adulterated’ by vermin on the sales floor and in an upstairs storage area, and observed containers of noodles, flour, and other food products gnawed and with vermin droppings on and around them,” the report said.”

Those of us with prescriptions to fill were sent over the hill to the Walgreens on Castro at 18th, where we had to wait in a long line to get relief.

Finally on Nov. 18, the steel grille was lifted and the Noe Valley store was open once again. All’s well that ends well...well, not for the rats.



PILLAGE IN THE VILLAGE: November’s news focused on the month’s surge in “gang invasions” of high-end retail stores in Union Square and shopping malls around the Bay Area. But during the pandemic, even our quaint little village has been hit with a number of smash-and-grab incidents.

Our beloved Gallery of Jewels (2089 24th) has been burglarized four times this

year. The most recent hit was Sept. 21, when thieves drove a truck through the store’s gated front window. They looked for jewelry to grab, then ran into a get-away car sitting on the street. The irony was that all of the jewelry was in the store safe in the back, and the front gallery was, for the most part, empty of inventory. The burglars couldn’t reach the displays in the window because they were covered by the gate they crashed into.

Nevertheless, says Jewels owner Bill Hoover, “I’ve had it! This was the last straw for me. I just don’t want to do this anymore, after too many nightmares about what happened to my store.” He says he is closing the store for good now and can no longer tolerate the time or money it would take to fix the structural damage to the building caused by the crash, or to reopen the business.

Hoover says he has put Gallery of Jewels “on the market for sale,” and explains that the new owner will have a fresh start once the red-tag notice is removed, meaning the structure is safe for occupancy.

We also got the details of an incident Saturday, Oct. 23, at around 4 a.m., in which a gang of three smashed a panel of the front window of the Plumpjack wine shop (4011 24th). Two of the culprits rushed into the store with garbage cans and began filling them with bottles from the shelves. Then they ran out with the loot and sped away.

“We have it all on video,” says store manager Brenden, who requested his last name be withheld, “and they knew exactly what they were after, taking bottles of wine with the highest price tags [\$70+] and carrying them to [a] car parked on the street.” He is quite sure the bandits had “cased the store” and had acted very quickly to make their escape.

By the way, you might recall Gavin Newsom gave a Nov. 22 news conference on the Union Square rampage, and he mentioned one of his two businesses in San Francisco had also been hit recently. He was referring to his Noe Valley Plumpjack (his second one is in the Marina).

I note parenthetically that there have been relatively few thefts at our Walgreens on Castro near Jersey Street. That may be because Walgreens (corporate) over a year ago in partnership with the SFPD started hiring police officers to park their squad cars nearby and stand guard in uniform inside the front door or near the bank of refrigerators at the store. (The officers volunteer for these overtime hours.) I say hello to the officer every time I enter and leave the store. It looks as if Walgreens has figured out how to keep the gangs of shoplifters out of the stores but only very recently the gangs of rats.



NOW THE GOOD NEWS: Lyanne Melendez, reporter for ABC 7 News, came to Downtown Noe Valley in the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 24, and aired a report while standing near the line at Noe Valley Bakery, which stretched up 24th Street to the bus stop near Castro. Channel 7 then went down to interview Michelle O’Connor, the new owner of the gift shop Just for Fun.

“Thank you to the community for welcoming me as a new business owner, and we’re here, we’ve got loads of things, we’ve got you covered,” O’Connor told

Melendez. The cameraperson videoed the regalia of Christmas decorations that adorned the parklet in front of the store.

Melendez then visited our treasured Folio Books. “We’ve had some great early holiday shopping. There’s some huge supply-chain issues right now in bookstores. A lot of stuff is sold out, but we have wonderful books to sell people. We have lots to sell people. We have lots of great recommendations, so we’re excited,” said Martha Dietzel, one of the owners of Folio.

Good news also came to Noe Valley when a store popped up in the space at 4037 24th St., recently vacated by When Modern Was (which had moved down the street to 4001 24th, on the corner of Noe). It is called Stroller Spa, and the business was formerly located on Sacramento Street near Laurel Village.

“We are basically a bike repair shop for strollers,” says owner Jamie Mamikunian, “They can sometimes break down,” to the tune of thousands of dollars.

She says usually it’s a simple repair that involves getting the broken part from the manufacturer and reinstalling it. “We repair them and also can deep-clean the stained and soiled fabric. We also carry an inventory of new strollers for sale.”

Mamikunian said she’d been looking to move the store for a while. “I can now ride my bike down the hill from Twin Peaks, where I live with my family, and be in a thriving community of people,” she says, “and get some help from my three kids in the store.”

Earlier in this century, she was an opera singer. When she left the opera and had kids, her baby stroller broke down and she figured out how to fix it. However, when she contacted the manufacturer in Europe, they refused to sell her the part and told her she’d have to buy a new stroller. She says she created quite a ruckus and finally got the part she needed. “I am now one of their ‘authorized repair shops’ in North America.”

By the way, the Stroller Spa also does watch repairs. How cool is that?

More good news came when the space vacated last month by the gift store Wink—which moved down the street next to When Modern Was—became the new home for an artist and gallery.

Momo Xu is moving her Upper Market gallery called Karizma into the space at 4107 24th St., just west of the corner of Castro. She had been in the Castro District for 25 years.

Momo, as she prefers to be called, is a star to those who make or adorn strings of beads and crystals and other jewelry. She creates and sells beads to bead-stringer artists, and creates and sells jewelry, as well as does jewelry and watch repair.

Karizma is almost like a reincarnation of that fantastic store once upon a time in Noe Valley at 4028 24th St.: Star Magic. Besides crystals, Momo also is adept at Feng Shui, the art of arranging space to achieve harmony.

“Yes,” she says, “I have quite a few clients and am a spiritual teacher of positive energy.” She recently was asked to create a crystal display for a wedding.

Most of all, she is “happy to get back to Noe Valley, where I lived when I was going to college and felt the strong sense of community in this neighborhood.”

Momo needed good karma to make the move. She first attempted to lease the space that Wink just moved to (4005

24th), but was told it was already rented. She then went to the new Wink, as the owners were moving in. “The owners told me they had just moved out of a store up the street and that it was for lease, so I called the real estate person, looked at the store, and was able to negotiate a lease and here I am...” She’s hoping to open the front door by Dec. 10.

We are sorry to be losing another popular jewelry designer, one who has been in Downtown Noe Valley for close to 20 years. Gilbertina Guarini is closing her studio and store, Quoio (4068 24th), at the end of December. “I am retiring and going to spend my time with family and travel, and when I am not doing that, just sitting in my back yard in the sun and enjoying the fresh air.” Happy trails to you, Gilbertina.



OMAKASE MEANS ‘I’LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU’: Sushi star chef Eric Deng is opening a second location in Noe Valley at 737 Diamond St. near 24th, in the space formerly occupied by Bacco Italian Restaurant, which moved to 3913 24th St., near Sanchez, several months ago. It will be named Dash SF. Deng’s other restaurant, Dash Japanese Tapas & Sushi, opened in 2012 in San Mateo.

“We will have many dishes that have been popular in San Mateo, and will feature fresh fish shipped directly from Toyosu Fish Market in Tokyo,” he says, “and will specialize in Omakase, which is the chef’s choice of the day at affordable prices.” As some of you may know, some Omakase restaurants in the city can be rather expensive.

Deng says he will provide free home delivery to patrons who live in the 94114 and 94131 zip codes. He hopes to be open for business soon, “in the early part of January.”

Speaking of sushi quality fish, our local fishmonger Billingsgate, at 3869 24th, just south of the Town Square, has become a destination for many urbanites on Friday afternoons. They all show up for the afternoon special: oysters on the half shell with a bottle of Cava sparkling wine, for half price.

“We started this special in August, from Tuesday to Friday from 3 to 5 in the afternoon,” says part-owner and store manager Esteban Macias, “and the word got out. We have been doing well during the week, but in the last two months we are fully booked, selling out of oysters on Fridays.”

There are seven tables for two and eight seats at the side bar. You do the math, but make sure you book ahead for Fridays.

You can order 12 oysters for \$24 plus a glass of wine for \$8 (or \$26 for a whole bottle) and hire a car and driver to take you home.

“We serve five kinds of oysters,” says Macias, “Standish Shore Oysters from Massachusetts, Miyagi local from Point Reyes, St. Simon from Canada, Kusshi from British Columbia, and Shigoku from Washington State.”



THAT IS ALL, Y’ALL: Have happy happy holidays, and be sure to shop local. Best wishes to all for the new year!

I get a vacation and will be back with fresh rumors in February 2022. My, how time flies when you’re having fun. Ciao for now. ■



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CHILDREN’S FICTION

Cara Goodwin offers good advice in *What to Do When You Feel Like Hitting: A No Hitting Book for Toddlers*, illustrated by Katie Turner. Ages 1 to 4.

At his first sleepover, Isaac helps Grandpop get the house ready for the night, in *Time for Bed, Old House*, written by Janet Costa Bates, illustrated by A.G. Ford. Ages 3 to 6.

In *Keep Your Head Up*, written by Aliya King Neil and illustrated by Charly Palmer, a child learns that even if everything goes wrong today, they can start fresh tomorrow. Ages 4 to 8.

A girl wants to be a private investigator in *Mina Mistry Investigates: The Case of the Loathsome School Lunches*, written by Angie Lake, with illustrations by Ellie O’Shea. Ages 7 to 9.

In *To Tell You the Truth* by Beth Vrabel, a fourth-grade girl tries to prove her Gran’s stories are true. Ages 8 to 12.

A boy who lives baseball is moved with his family to a Japanese internment camp during World War II, in *Stealing Home* by J. Torres, with illustrations by David Namisato. Ages 9 to 12.

After Earth has been destroyed by a comet, a young girl and her family live on another planet, in *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera. Ages 10 to 14.

CHILDREN’S NONFICTION

Learn shocking and hilarious top-secret information in *Butterflies Are Pretty...* *Gross*, written by Rosemary Mosco, illustrated Jacob Souva. Ages 4 to 8.

*Orangutan Hats and Other Tools Animals Use* by Richard Haynes, with illustrations by Stephanie Laberis, shows the ingenious ways creatures solve their problems. Ages 5 to 10.

The first black student to integrate a New Orleans elementary school is the hero in *She Persisted: Ruby Bridges*, by Kekla Magoon. Ages 6 to 10.

The origins of life on Earth are explored in *Out of the Blue: How Animals Evolved From Prehistoric Seas*, written by Elizabeth Shreeve and illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon. Ages 7 to 10.

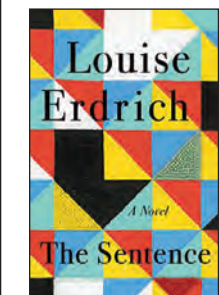
Paul Ian Cross’ *How to Vanquish a Virus: The Truth About Viruses, Vaccines, and More!* (illustrated by Steve Brown) explains the scientific facts about viruses, including Covid-19. Ages 8 to 12.

A young woman tells her story of being falsely arrested as a terrorist, in *Accused: My Story of Injustice*, by Adama Bah. Ages 8 to 14 years.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Holiday Pages

S nuggle up with a cup of cocoa and peruse the titles that Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library have offered *Voice* readers this month (see the lists on this page). Among them is a memoir by artist and architect Weiwei Ai,

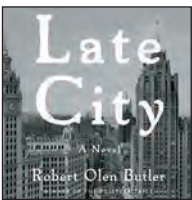


a book for toddlers about what to do when you feel like hitting, and new fiction from the likes of Louise Erdrich, Anne Patchett, and Robert Olen Butler. The branch also has a selection of DVDs, including the latest films from Dwayne Johnson, Jennifer Hudson, and Matt Damon.

If you have your eye on a popular book or film, place it on hold via the San Francisco Public Library website (sfpl.org), or call the Library at 415-557-4400. Or stroll over to the Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St. (between Castro and Diamond streets). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 415-355-5707.

Don’t forget to bring your mask. The City and Country of San Francisco has mandated that *library visitors and staff wear face coverings*, regardless of vaccination status.

To see the library system’s events calendar, go to: <https://sfpl.org/events>.



*Marched Into History*, written by Leah Henderson, illustrated by Tyler Feder. Age 9 to 13.

ADULT FICTION

A small bookstore is haunted by the ghost of its most annoying customer, in *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich.

In *Termination Shock*, a thriller by Neal Stephenson, a billionaire has a plan to reverse global warming.

Anne Patchett’s essays, *These Precious Days*, reflect on writing and personal relationships.

*The City of Mist* features previously unpublished short stories by the late Carlos Ruiz Zafon, author of the best-selling *Shadow of the Wind*.

A woman takes a break from her husband and child in the darkly funny *I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness* by Claire Vaye Watkins.

ADULT EBOOKS – FICTION

A 115-year-old man on his deathbed revisits his life spanning the 20th century, in *Late City* by Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler.

Four patrons of a coffee shop time-travel in *Tales From the Cafe*, Toshikazu Kawaguchi’s follow-up to *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*.

ADULT NONFICTION

In *Burning Boy: The Life and Work of Stephen Crane*, Paul Auster describes the short but tumultuous path of the author of *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Journalist Albert Samaha traces his Filipino American heritage in *Concepcion: An Immigrant Family’s Fortunes*.

Rebecca Solnit offers an account of the 1984 novelist’s personal life (and love for gardening) in *Orwell’s Roses*.

*Things I Have Withheld*, by Kei Miller, is a collection of essays about race, sex, and gender.

In the memoir *1,000 Years of Joys and Sorrows*, China-born artist and architect Weiwei Ai tracks his journey as a human rights activist.

ADULT EBOOKS – NONFICTION

Mary Roach examines the influence of humans on wildlife in *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*.

In *Smile: The Story of a Face*, Sarah Ruhl details her struggle with paralysis due to Bell’s palsy.

ADULT DVDS

Jennifer Hudson stars as Aretha Franklin in the 2021 biopic *Respect*.

The 2019 British miniseries *A Confession* stars Martin Freeman as a detective who relentlessly seeks a killer.

*Jungle Cruise* (2021), starring Dwayne Johnson, is based on a Disneyland theme park ride.

Vin Diesel and his crew take on a terrorist who turns out to be his estranged brother, in the 2021 film *F9*.

In *Stillwater*, Matt Damon plays a father who travels to France to free his imprisoned daughter (2021).

*Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske*

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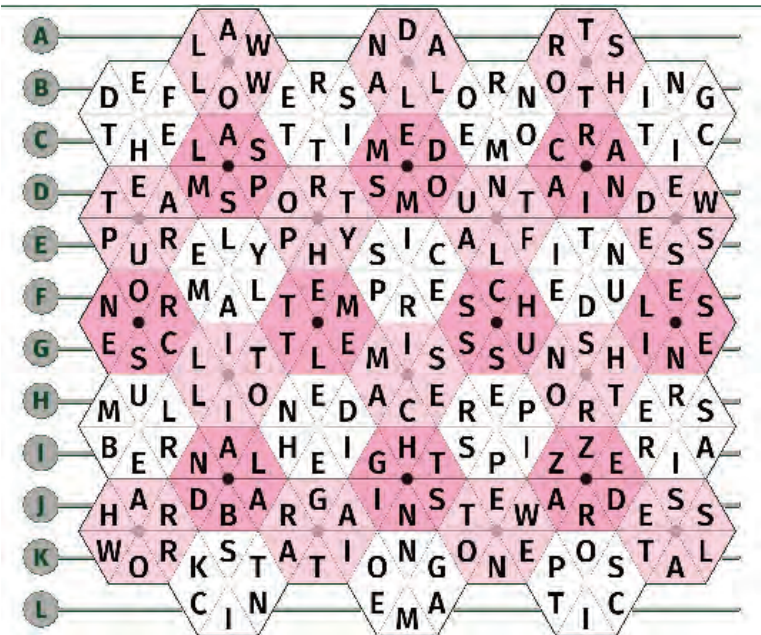
Mission Branch Library\*  
300 Bartlett St., 355-2800  
Closed for renovation

Glen Park Branch Library\*  
2825 Diamond St., 355-2858  
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Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library\*  
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616  
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\*For updates, go to [sfpl.org](https://sfpl.org).

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312 FAIR OAKS ST  
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218 RICHLAND AVE  
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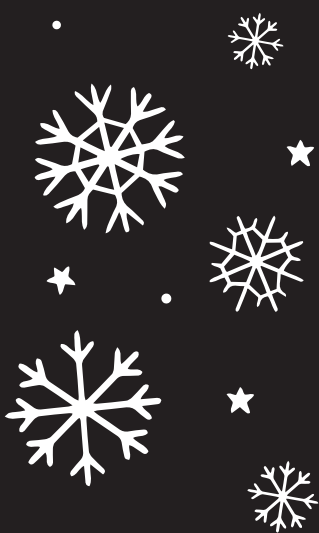
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MON  
DEC  
6

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Email: [ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com)  
Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m. Virtual meeting. All welcome.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley**

Contact: 834-9940  
Website: [al-anonsf.org](http://al-anonsf.org)  
Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.  
St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street)

**Castro Community on Patrol**

Website: [castropatrol.org](http://castropatrol.org)  
Email: [info@castropatrol.org](mailto:info@castropatrol.org)

**Castro Merchants**

Contacts: Masood Samereie, President; Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245  
Email: [Dave@mx3fitness.com](mailto:Dave@mx3fitness.com)  
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114  
Meetings: Email [info@CastroMerchants.com](mailto:info@CastroMerchants.com)

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

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

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: [info@doloresheights.org](mailto:info@doloresheights.org)  
Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://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.

**Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

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

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Email: [hello@fairoaksneighbors.org](mailto:hello@fairoaksneighbors.org)  
Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110  
The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122  
Website: [www.billygoathill.net](http://www.billygoathill.net)

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772  
Email: [friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com)  
Website: [friendsofdolorespark.org](http://friendsofdolorespark.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Website: [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Meetings: Two or three annually.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Chris Faust  
Email: [info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com](mailto:info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
Website: [uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://uppernoerecreationcenter.com)  
Meetings: Email or check website.

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

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel  
Email: [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org)  
Website: [www.fundogsf.org](http://www.fundogsf.org)

**Glen Park Association**

Contact: [info@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:info@glenparkassociation.org)  
Website: [glenparkassociation.org](http://glenparkassociation.org)  
Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

**Juri Commoners**

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290  
Email: [dave@schweisguth.org](mailto:dave@schweisguth.org)  
Website: [meetup.com/Juri-Commoners](http://meetup.com/Juri-Commoners)  
Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president  
Email: [efromer3@gmail.com](mailto:efromer3@gmail.com)  
Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders  
Email: [info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](mailto:info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com)  
Website: [noeneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://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 or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.  
Email: [info@noevalleyassociation.org](mailto:info@noevalleyassociation.org)  
Website: [noevalleyassociation.org](http://noevalleyassociation.org)  
Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.NoValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents  
Contact: Mina Kenvin  
Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco**

Listserv contact: [noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com). Subscribe: [noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Progress Noe Valley**

Facebook: [facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley](https://facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley)  
Email: [progressnoe@gmail.com](mailto:progressnoe@gmail.com)  
Website: [progressnoe.com](http://progressnoe.com)  
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Resilient Noe Valley**

Contact: Antoinette  
Email: [resilientnoevalley@gmail.com](mailto:resilientnoevalley@gmail.com)  
Newsletter signup: <http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5>  
Website: [www.resilientnoevalley.com](http://www.resilientnoevalley.com)

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

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com); Carole Roberts, [carole\\_roberts@faludi.com](mailto:carole_roberts@faludi.com)  
Website: <https://SF-fire.org>  
New classes will be commencing soon. Visit the SF NERT website for more information.

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

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
Email: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Website: [sanjoseguerrero.com](http://sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See website.

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel  
Email: [info@SlowSanchez.com](mailto:info@SlowSanchez.com)  
Website: [SlowSanchez.com](http://SlowSanchez.com)

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: [Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com](mailto:Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com)  
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

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

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
[editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com)

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

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(vē'vr') v. [Fr.] to live; to experience.

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— Omar R. —

New Blogs:



- **Before/After:** Presale Home Improvements Equal Big ROI
- **Seller Fees:** What Costs Are Involved in Selling a Home?
- As Winter Real Estate Slows, Opportunity Grows

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CITY AND COUNTY OF  
**SAN FRANCISCO**

Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board Pursuant to Admin. Code 2.81

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DECEMBER 2021**

**REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE**

Tell the Redistricting Task Force where to draw the San Francisco Supervisorial District lines! Visit the Redistricting website for directions on how to virtually attend their meetings. Website: [www.sf.gov/public-body/2020-census-redistricting-task-force](http://www.sf.gov/public-body/2020-census-redistricting-task-force) Contact the Clerk, John Carroll, at (415) 554-4445 or [rdtf@sfgov.org](mailto:rdtf@sfgov.org) for more information.

**ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD VACANCIES**

Help resolve legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board #1 – two; Board #2 - three; and Board# 3 – five. Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision. To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

**WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN (WIC) NUTRITION PROGRAM**

San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) WIC Nutrition Program provides healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, health care referrals and community information. To learn about California WIC Program, visit [www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov](http://www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov) or call 1-888-942-9675. To enroll in SFPDH WIC Program visit, [www.sfdph.org/wic](http://www.sfdph.org/wic) to start your application or call 628-217-6890 to make an appointment. Newly pregnant individuals, working families, including military and migrant families are encouraged to apply! WIC welcomes dads, grandparents, foster parents, or guardians who care for eligible children.

**CHILD SUPPORT MATTERS**

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. We are available to assist you in person or by phone. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit us online at [www.sfgov.org/dcsc](http://www.sfgov.org/dcsc) to learn how we can help you. Schedule an appointment to open your case at <https://sfgov.org/dcsc/opening-case>

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF  
**SAN FRANCISCO**

Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board Pursuant to Admin. Code 2.81

**REDISTRICTING OUTREACH NOTICE**

**DECEMBER 2021**

**THE REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE HAS BEGUN!**

Every ten years, the district boundaries of San Francisco's Supervisorial districts are redrawn to ensure that each district maintains equal population of residents. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process.

The Task Force needs your input!

Tell the Task Force where you would like to draw the San Francisco Supervisorial District lines!

As they convene, they will look to YOU and collect your opinions, ideas, and concerns around your District lines and the impacts to our communities.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- First Monday of Every Month at 6:00 p.m.
- Third Wednesday of Every Month at 6:00 p.m.

Please visit the website for information on Special Meetings.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

- Attend meetings Please see the website for specific directions: [www.sfelections.org/rdtf](http://www.sfelections.org/rdtf)
- Submit comments by emailing [rdtf@sfgov.org](mailto:rdtf@sfgov.org) or calling (415) 554-4445
- Join the email list to receive updates issued by the Redistricting Task Force. To sign up, visit [www.sfelections.org/rdtf](http://www.sfelections.org/rdtf)
- Follow the Redistricting Task Force on Facebook and Twitter: @RedistrictSF

[www.sfelections.org/rdtf](http://www.sfelections.org/rdtf)

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# ENTERTAINERS OASIS IN NOE VALLEY

An entertainer's oasis with modern architecture and panoramic views. Set behind a victorian facade, lies an exquisite modern home with incredible ceiling height, open concept living with luxurious upgrades. The foyer welcomes you with a jaw-dropping glass floor leading to the generous great room with a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access.

The true heart of the home is the kitchen, which features a waterfall counter island with dining area, and is fit for a chef with built-in Miele appliances. While you will never want to leave the house, the outdoor spaces are the cherry on top for al fresco dining and entertainment. The peaceful primary suite extends over the full width of the home and features a relaxing zen ensuite bathroom. The lower level has a media lounge, glass wine room, two additional bedrooms with direct access to the backyard.

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