



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

24th Street's New Leases on Life

Businesses Blooming in 'Downtown Noe Valley'

By Matthew S. Bajko

A business revival is under way along 24th Street, with a dozen new offerings now available or preparing to open in the coming months. The retailers run the gamut from new restaurants and clothiers to a math tutor, personal grooming services, and Noe Valley's first cannabis store.

It is welcome news for the longtime merchants who have struggled to survive through the Covid-19 pandemic. With vaccinations for the virus now being offered to any city resident age 16 and older, local health officials have been loosening the restrictions they imposed on businesses over the past 13 months to help contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Nail salons and barbershops were allowed to reopen, and restaurants can again serve patrons indoors, albeit at reduced capacity. The relaxed rules have drawn more foot traffic to the neighborhood's commercial corridor, as storefronts that have been vacant for a year or longer come back to life.

Realtor Sharon Cassidy and her business partner, Alexander Solis, are aiming to open Noe Valley's first cannabis retail store this September. They won approval from the San Francisco Planning Commission in April 2020 to move into 3751 24th St., between Church and Chattanooga streets.

Because the building still sports signage from the previous tenant, a women's clothing store that shuttered in 2018, Cassidy and Solis have decided to keep its name, The Mill, for their new business. They hope to soon receive the building permits they need to revamp the space's interior with new fixtures and a fresh coat



Hope Springs. As Covid cases fell in April, blossoms filled the trees and shoppers trickled back to 24th Street, doing their part to bring energy to a rebirth of retail. Photo by Art Bodner

of paint.

"I plan to spend my entire summer on the remodel in order to get this thing open," said Cassidy, who owns the building, which also includes four residential units. "We are not doing a whole lot of build-out. The property is almost

turnkey."

Less than a half block away at 1199 Church St., Kristen and Mike McCaffery opened their Mr. Digby's Bar & Restaurant on April 6, more than a year after signing the lease. The corner spot at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Eric's—Warming Our Hearts With Food and Comfort

Dang Family Finds New Ways To Nourish the Neighborhood

By Megan Wetherall

This year marks the 30-year anniversary of Eric's Restaurant, a beloved Noe Valley institution housed in the light-filled, high-ceilinged ground floor of a handsome Victorian at 1500 Church St.

Given that restaurant turnover is high at the best of times and this past year has led to the closure of more than 100 food-serving businesses in San Francisco, it is a testament to Eric's standing in the community that it has managed to keep its stovetops warm during Covid, providing sustenance and pleasure not only by offering takeout but by delivering meals free of charge to vulnerable neighborhood residents during the fraught first six months of the pandemic.

I first came across Eric's during my early days of roaming the hilly streets of Noe Valley after moving to Hoffman Avenue seven years ago. On an otherwise sleepy block of Church near 27th Street, there was an eager jostle of people heading in for the lunch special at the restaurant. Each time the door opened, I caught whiffs of the dishes being served and deduced that in spite of its unlikely name, Eric's breathed the pungent aroma of garlic and of spices heralding the cuisine of Hunan Province in South Central China. I soon returned with my children in tow, and it wasn't long before my son's discovery of Eric's broccoli beef ignited a passion that continues to this day.

On a sunny afternoon in April, I sat down inside the restaurant to share a pot of jasmine tea with Kim Dang, the woman who has spent an average of six

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A Pandemic Full of Pet Adoptions

Noe Valley Follows National Trend: We Want Puppies!

By Kala Hunter

Spring has sprung. Flowers are blooming, trees are leafing, and gardens are showing signs of life. Vaccinations are creating opportunities for more in-person activities. And San Franciscans are set to enter the most lenient Covid-19 tier. Like newborn baby rabbits, we're learning to leave our nests and explore the world—for what feels like the first time.

The picture was much different last spring. Last year, while the trees and flowers were budding, the world was experiencing its first-ever collective lockdown to avoid spreading a deadly virus. We stayed inside 24/7. The new reality of work-from-home created the perfect scenario: "It's time to adopt a pet."

Residents of Noe Valley, if they didn't have one already, rushed to adopt a dog,

cat, or bird, for security, comfort, exercise, and companionship.

Nationally, the U.S. saw a 22 percent increase in adoptions—both dog and cat—year over year from April 2019 to April 2020, according to the nonprofit Shelter Animals Count, which keeps tabs on sheltered animals around the country.

Zooming into San Francisco, the picture is a little fuzzy.

The city's Animal Care and Control (ACC) and the San Francisco SPCA both saw a decrease in animals they took in (animals brought to the shelters) and in those they adopted out, post April 2020. So, the total adoptions from both shelters in 2020 stayed about the same as in 2019. Complicating the numbers was that the SF SPCA temporarily halted intakes and adoptions for the first few months of the pandemic.

Still, no one doubts that pets were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



New Roommates. Atticus, 6, was lucky enough to become a "quarantine kitty," sharing the home of Rocket, 3, and 16-year-old feline Nikita (not shown). Their guardian, Mindy Madson, had to wait three months to adopt the new cat. Photo courtesy Mindy Madson



OPENSFHISTORY

Laying Them Down. Here's the view north from 22nd Street near Church Street of the J-Church right of way, north of 22nd Street. Railroad ties are being laid out.

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

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

Local businesses, institutions, and individuals who have purchased advertising space help us pay production costs and many of our contributing writers, artists and photographers. We are forever grateful to them.

After a decade of declining income, the *Voice* has reached out to you, our loyal readers, asking for financial help. A great many of you have responded. Thank you. Your kind words of encouragement and generous donations are enabling us to continue.

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How long will this mini frenzy last? Some economists predict weakness at the end of the year when we are past the virus but left with the economic fall out. 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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NoeValleyDiamond.com
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WhitneyStreetBeauty.com
 86 Whitney St \$2,500,000

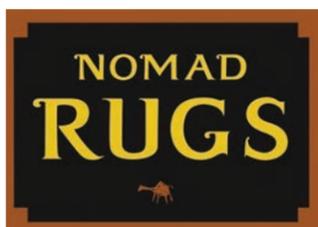
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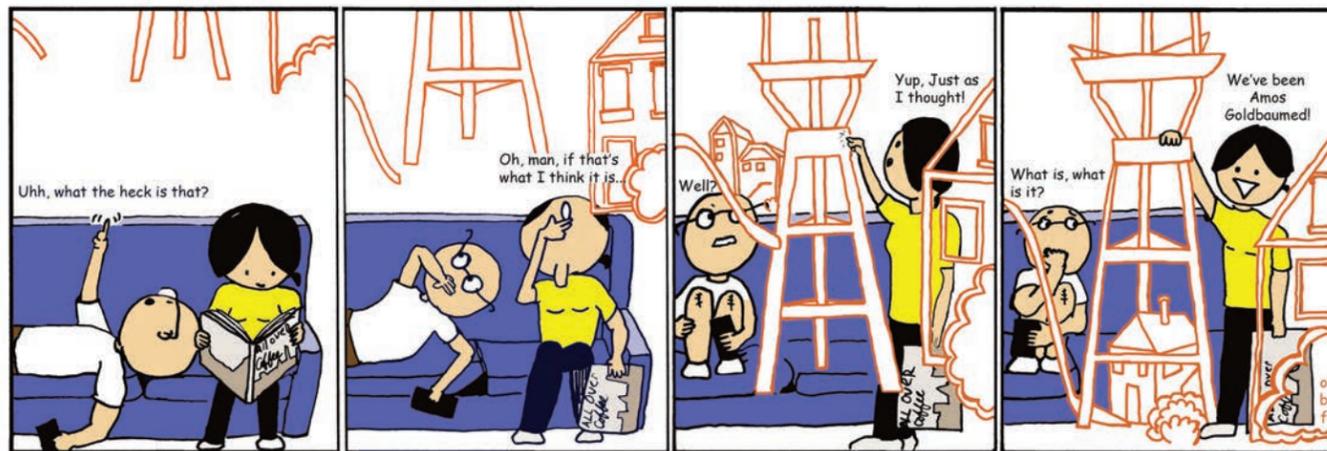
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



LETTERS

Getting Up to Speed on Slow Sanchez

Editor's Note: Although this April 21 email was addressed to Sanchez Street residents, we thought it important enough to share with the neighborhood.

Hi, Sanchez Resident:

Thank you for your offer to address quality-of-life issues on the Sanchez Slow Street. We understand that the conversion of Sanchez to a Slow Street has had many impacts on the neighborhood, both good and bad.

As we continue the design process for what a future Sanchez Slow Street could look like at SFMTA, we understand that we cannot ignore the consequences of the changes on the street. We heard loud and clear during our four community meetings over the past few weeks that there are many key quality-of-life issues that must be addressed,

including: moderating noise in the neighborhood and addressing unauthorized amplified sound, addressing trash accumulation due to the increased pedestrian traffic, and encouraging better behavior of Slow Sanchez users.

We've identified that each of these issues has a different solution, based in different parts of San Francisco government. Here's who we've identified to address each issue:

• **Trash accumulation on Sanchez:** We're currently working with the Department of Public Works to make sure there are adequate trash cans on Sanchez. Currently the city cans on Sanchez between 23rd and 30th are serviced in the morning and afternoon seven days a week. The Recology Route Supervisor for this area has been monitoring the can capacity related to the Slow Street and is able to install more cans as needed. Have a suggested location for an additional trash can on or near Slow Sanchez? Snap a photo of the location and send it our way!

• **Noise complaints on Sanchez:** There are two different options here, depending on the nature of the noise complaint—but 311 is generally a good first step. You can always report a noise complaint via 311 or call the police non-emergency line at 415-553-0123. If your concern is related to amplified sound or a specific business, you can notify the Entertainment Commission via 311.

• **Encouraging good behavior on Sanchez:** Community groups like the Friends of Slow Sanchez and Upper Noe Neighbors are very active on the Sanchez Slow Street. These organizations can help with signage, community cleanup events, or other efforts to moderate events/activities that shouldn't be occurring on the Slow Street. Specifically, Friends of Slow Sanchez will be producing signage to encourage more courteous use of the Slow Street.

• **Other Issues:** SFMTA is working on the issues that are within our purview. For other issues, please reach

out to Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's office at mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org.

As we at SFMTA develop design options for a future Slow Sanchez to share with stakeholders in mid-May, we want to make sure that our work helps to address the quality of life issues you've identified.

We'd like to invite you to a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 11, at 6 p.m., for an early peek at what we're envisioning for Slow Sanchez, and to follow up on the issues we heard in early April... SFMTA staff would be happy to attend any other meeting of your choosing as well.

Please forward this notice to anyone who might be interested in attending the meeting and advise them to email me at brian.liang@sfmta.com to be included in the invite. Thank you!

Brian Liang, Transportation Planner
 Livable Streets | Streets Division

Kudos for Folio Editor:

I very much enjoyed and appreciated the article you recently ran on Paula and John Foley's creative and resourceful strategy in keeping Folio Books alive and afloat during these difficult and challenging times ["A New Chapter for Folio Books," *Voice* March 2021].

Paula and John, two terrific people, are to be commended and applauded for their diligence and persistence in coming up with a master plan to successfully maintain this wonderful shop as an important, if not vital, community resource.

Although the store is not yet available for browsing [in April], just passing by and engaging with their knowledgeable and friendly staff at the front Dutch door gives one a rewarding sense that the world, however changed and altered at the moment, still has familiar trappings and will one day soon return to its former and familiar self.

Thank you, Paula and John.
 Bruce Dettman
 30th Street

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Noe Valley residents got a bit of welcome news in March. Fewer than 90 incidents were reported in the 10 crime categories the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks, a substantial decrease from the previous four months, according to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports.

Police recorded 82 incidents in Noe Valley in March, down 29 percent from the average reported monthly from November 2020 through February 2021 (116). The largest share of incidents (29) were classified as larceny/thefts, like car strips and thefts of packages from doorsteps. There were 12 thefts from vehicles, 12 thefts from residences, and five stolen license plates.

The data showed 17 burglaries in March. That number was a sharp reduction from February, when 54 such incidents were reported. Fourteen of the March incidents were home break-ins, including four "hot prowls," where residents were indoors at the time.

The month also saw 11 cases of malicious mischief, ranging from graffiti to broken windows. Fifteen motor vehicles were snatched from Noe Valley streets in March, including 10 cars (one recovered) and four trucks. (Police did not identify the type of transportation in one case.)

The March data was culled April 14, 2021, from the city's "Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports From 2018 to the Present," found under Public Safety at Data.sfgov.org. "Noe Valley" in the statistical map is an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. Police say the best way to get attention for recurring problems is to file police reports when incidents occur. Call the police non-emergency number, 415-553-0123, or file a police report online at sanfranciscopolice.org. In an emergency, call 911.

Noe Valley has new captains commanding the two police stations charged with serving the neighborhood (among other neighborhoods in San Francisco): Mission Station Capt. Rachel Moran and Ingleside Station Capt. Nicole Jones. To reach Mission Station, call 415-558-5400 or email rachel.moran@sfgov.org. To contact Ingleside, call 415-404-4000 or email nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incidents Reported November 2020 – March 2021

Incident Reports	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021
Larceny/Theft	38	45	33	27	29
Burglary	20	30	36	54	17
Malicious Mischief	4	8	13	13	11
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	25	18	12	15
Assault	3	4	4	4	2
Robbery	0	7	1	0	0
Other Miscellaneous	8	6	8	8	3
Fraud	2	4	3	3	2
Family Domestic Violence	3	1	1	0	2
Vandalism	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	96	130	117	121	82



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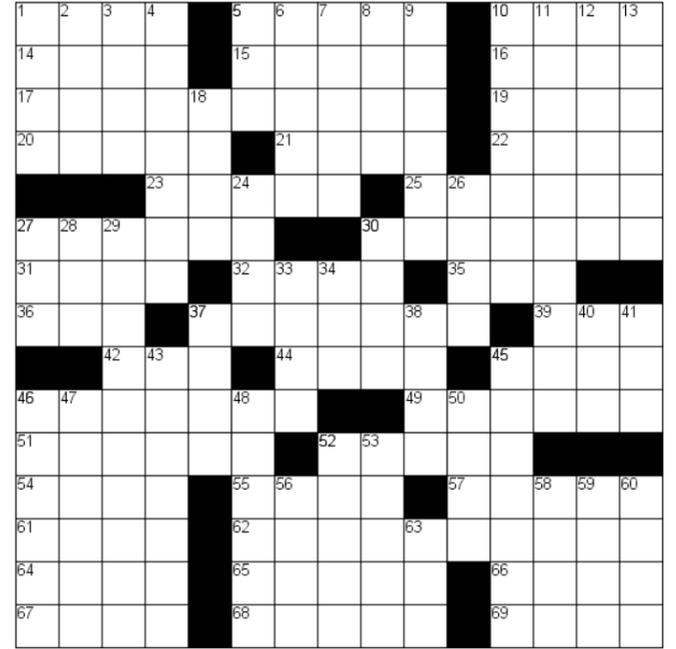
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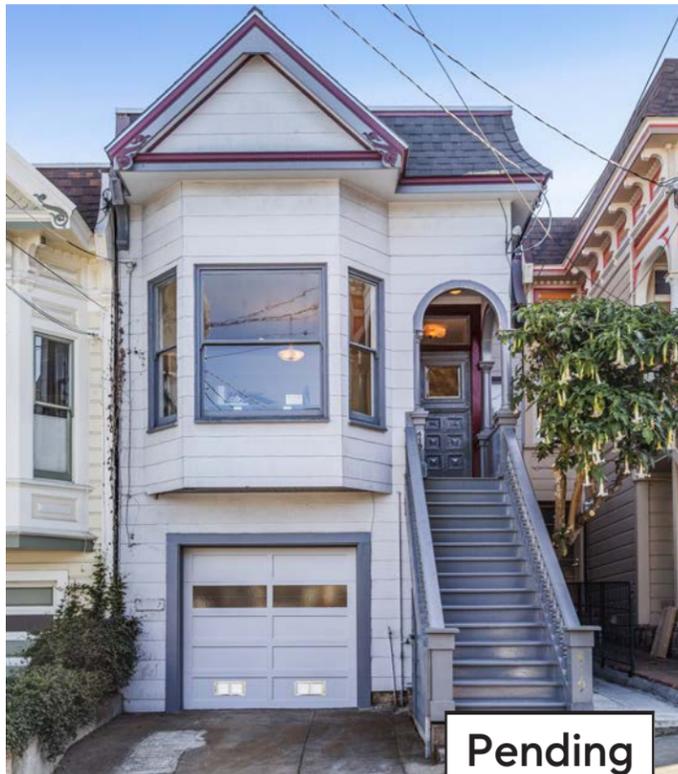
1. "That's funny!"
5. Name for House Speaker Rayburn
10. ___-Alt-Del
14. Five-dollar bills, in slang
15. Disney Concert Hall architect Frank
16. [sigh]
17. SF's Italian center
19. "You're putting ___!"
20. Where Hahn's Hibachi's cuisine is from
21. Gin-fizz flavor
22. Crooked-sounding Oregon town
23. Indian monetary unit
25. Assess a second time
27. Ill-considered
30. Concerned wife's question at UCSF hospital, maybe
31. Prehistoric predator, for short
32. Kind of lily
35. "___ at Joe's"
36. Cooling units, for short
37. Company that swallowed Paragon and Alain Pinel realty—and the inspiration for this puzzle
39. See 44-Across
42. Lao Tzu's "path"
44. With 39-Across, Uber alternative
45. Surfer's sobriquet
46. Beetle haircuts, in early shocked reviews
49. Egg container
51. Words after "loose as" or "silly as"
52. Malia's sister
54. Italian cheese, for short
55. Selections at Lovejoy's
57. Texas A&M athlete
61. "___ lid on it!"



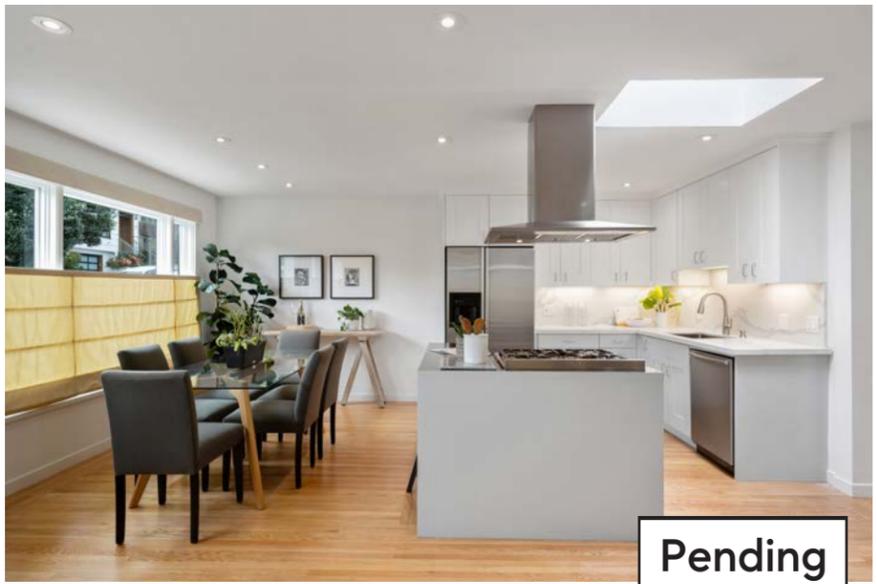
62. Heading to SFO on 101 from Noe Valley, say
 64. Cop Eddie who was fictionalized as Pop-eye Doyle
 65. Navel variety
 66. Shuttle launcher
 67. Shoulder muscle, slangily
 68. Romanov rulers
 69. Swindle
- DOWN**
1. Longtime Giants announcer ___ Greenwald
 2. "Peek-___, I see you!"
 3. Mister, in Munich
 4. Comics pal of Obelix
 5. Classic British sports car
 6. Actress Witherspoon
 7. Mineral layer involved in fracking
 8. Gas station name
 9. "You saved me!"
 10. Beach town near Hearst Castle
 11. New name for SF's Rincon Hill neighborhood
 12. Safe time to eat shellfish, in an adage
 13. Borrower
 18. What a frau calls her home
 24. Coin of Mexico
 26. Farm females
 27. Hagen of Hollywood
 28. A.E.C. successor
 29. Where a tunnel carries Muni's K, L, and M trains downtown
 30. Swindle
 33. Ambulance crew, for short
 34. Academic record, in brief
 37. Dove sounds
 38. Orders to attack, with "on"
 40. *Much ___ About Nothing*
 41. Jerry's ice-cream partner
 43. Cartoon hero who battled Ferocious Flea
 45. The second D of D&D
 46. Planned in detail, with "out"
 47. Model train track standard
 48. Watch Fluffy or Fido
 50. Ishmael's captain
 52. Onetime offering at Elisa's Health Spa
 53. Up and about
 56. Geologic time divisions
 58. Avocado dip, casually
 59. "Last one ___ rotten egg!"
 60. Gouda alternative
 63. "___ going to be all right" (Answer to 30-Across)

Solution on Page 22
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New Businesses Set to Open on 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Church and 24th streets has been home to various eateries for decades.

In addition to becoming new parents, the McCafferys spent much of the past year developing the concept for Mr. Digby's. (See this month's Store Trek for more about its menu.) Kristen McCaffery also worked hand in hand with her sister, Kathryn Gianaras, to ensure the eatery they co-own a few blocks away on 24th Street, NOVY, wasn't a casualty of Covid.

"Noe Valley was already struggling to keep the small neighborhood businesses alive pre-pandemic," said McCaffery. "I was really worried to see the pandemic wipe out more shops. It is great to see people survived it and to see the new businesses come in and keep the spirit of the neighborhood alive."

Problems Solved at 3813

Andre Kvitka is ecstatic at being able to send parents who've enrolled their children at his Mathnasium location, at 3813 24th St., over to Mr. Digby's while they wait for their tutoring session to end. The franchise has an unwritten rule that parents shouldn't be hovering nearby while their children sharpen their math skills.

"They are not explicitly told, 'You can't stay here.' But we do not provide places for them to sit," noted Kvitka, who hopes to begin offering tutoring sessions in May. "We have parents already waiting to bring their kids here."

He and his wife used to live in Noe Valley when they first met. They moved to Belmont on the Peninsula, and when their son needed some assistance with his math skills, the family turned to a nearby Mathnasium for help. It led Kvitka to quit his job in the tech industry to become a franchisee of the chain, with a territory covering several of San Francisco's east-ern neighborhoods.

"It's been two years and four months since we signed the paperwork," Kvitka told the *Voice* in early April. "It took us a year to find a space. We knew we wanted this portion of San Francisco and we wanted to be in Noe Valley."

Pure Barre in Motion

By the fall, he should have a new neighbor in Stephany Gabriner, who is opening a location of Pure Barre at 3800 24th St. It had been the site of a 24 Hour Fitness Fit Lite micro gym. The Forest Hill resident has been teaching the full body workout routine at the West Portal

location for six years and has been helping out at various Pure Barre locations around the Bay Area the past year.

Considered formula retail since there are 550 Pure Barre outlets across the U.S., Gabriner needs to secure approval from the city's planning commission before she can open. She hopes to get a hearing date before August and anticipates needing to do only minimal work to remodel the 2,100-square-foot space.

"We won't open until the fall," Gabriner said. "My timing post-pandemic couldn't be better to be honest with you."

The workout derives its name from the use of a ballet barre and helps tone a person's body using isometric movements. It is a low-impact but high-intensity workout, noted Gabriner.

"It is totally different from anything else on the street. I am hoping to attract residents of Noe Valley and draw in some Mission folks interested in trying barre," she said.

Massage, Retail at New Spa

By July, Sarah Redmond hopes to have her Cocoon Day Spa Noe Valley open at 3910 24th St., where women's athletic clothier See Jane Run had been located. Joining her as a co-owner will be her friend Kimi Mercado, who had been managing the spa's location on First Street in San Francisco's South of Market area.

Mercado moved to Charleston, S.C., last year after the spa was forced to temporarily close due to Covid. (It briefly reopened in July, only to be ordered closed again until mid-January.) She had been living in Noe Valley and hopes to move back into the neighborhood by June 1.

Redmond signed the lease three years ago for the 24th Street storefront. She has spent two years seeking the permits needed to remodel the space and provide on-site massage, in addition to facials, manicures, pedicures, and other spa offerings.

(The planning commission was expected to grant the massage license at its April 29 meeting just as the *Voice* went to press.)

"We lost a year with Covid," said Redmond, who built out the basement of the location in order to have a two-story storefront.

In the reception area will be a retail component, with clothing from such brands as Cosabella, Free People, Splendid, and the San Francisco-based hatter Goorin Bros.

"Very few spas offer everything," noted Redmond, who recently opened a location in Oakland's Rockridge district. "Skincare and massage and nails are what we are known for."

Because of her East Bay expansion, Redmond is rebranding and dropping the word "urban" from the name of her loca-

tions, which for the past 14 years has been Cocoon Urban Day Spa.

The Ireland native, who immigrated to the U.S. in 2005, remains confident about the San Francisco market and the long-term success of her business.

"I have a lot of faith in San Francisco and really believe the city will bounce back," she said. "Since we reopened the SOMA location, our business is back to what it was like pre-Covid. It is pretty shocking. People are just so happy to get back to some normality; our clients are grateful we are back."

Shaves, Art, and Chicken

Some of the other new businesses that have opened since last fall include long-time neighborhood barber Arvin Del Socorro, who opened Noe Valley Cuts and Shaves Barbershop in the tiny space at 4137A 24th St., and resident Luan Nguyen's consignment clothing store Noo24SF at 3977 24th Street. Next door is artist Elizabeth Dekker's Art Haus, a gallery space where she also offers art classes.

Neighborhood mainstay Bacco Ristorante Italiano relocated in November from Diamond Street to 3913 24th St, long the home of Savor restaurant, while fishmonger Billingsgate opened in December at 3859 24th St., next door to the Noe Valley Town Square.

Earlier this year Lace & Liberty, an appointment-only bridal shop, took over Cotton Basics' longtime home at 1301 Castro St. at the corner of 24th Street.

Down the street at 4063 24th St., Australian chicken spot Village Rotisserie is aiming to open in May.

Why Not a Vet?

According to sources, a veterinarian could also soon set up shop on 24th Street not far from the J-Church Muni line stop

at Church and 24th streets. A building owner had reached out to city officials inquiring if such a business would require special permits in order to open. The owner did not respond to an inquiry from the *Voice* on whether they had indeed leased the storefront to a vet.

The Mill's Cassidy told the *Voice* she believes better days are ahead for the neighborhood and the city as a whole as the Covid pandemic begins to ebb in the Bay Area.

"I am just hopeful for the future, and I am glad this pandemic is ending," she said. "I am happy about the positivity I see in San Francisco and the community. I think everybody is more appreciative of our normal life." ■



A bouquet of poppies appeared on the sidewalk outside the Walgreen's on Castro Street—was it a sign of new life in the business corridor? Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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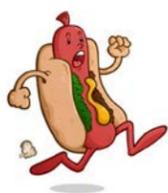
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Eric's Restaurant: Like Family After 30 Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

days a week in this establishment since she first crossed the threshold just two weeks after it opened in 1991. At the time, she was working as a waiter at First Yunnan restaurant on Sutter (now closed) five days a week. She spent the other two at Eric's, working all hours to support her young family after separating from her husband. But she quickly moved over to Eric's full-time, and it wasn't long before she migrated into the kitchen.

She learned that the restaurant was named for the son of owner Choe Sung, a Taiwanese-born Chinese chef. Five years later, Sung's brother James Sung went on to open Alice's Restaurant, at 1599 Sanchez St., another prominent corner location. It was named after James Sung's wife. Dang eventually became a partner and co-owner at both restaurants, which have very similar menus and serve many of the same clientele. So, they are not in fact, as Noe rumor once had it, rivals, except perhaps in the playful way that siblings sometimes can be.

Dang, whose youthful complexion and radiant vitality belie the rigorous work ethic of a lifetime, is the second of nine siblings, born in 1960 in former Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam. "We are Chinese," she tells me, "and we grew up speaking Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese."

Although Dang's English is good, her daughter, Susie Mao, joined our conversation via FaceTime to translate when necessary. Dang has three grown children and she proudly shows me pictures of her daughter and two sons, as well as two granddaughters, and it quickly becomes clear what a tight-knit family this is.

Caretaking Began Early

Growing up, Dang's family was poor, so once she had completed sixth grade she had to go out to work. Her culinary responsibilities began earlier, however, at just 7 years old, when her mother had to leave the children home alone to sell tofu from a street cart. As Dang's oldest sister has special needs, it fell on Dang to cook for the whole brood, preparing dishes like salted vegetables. "Now I still take care of her, she lives with me," she says of her older sister. But her favorite childhood dish from Vietnam was the iconic pho soup, which she loves for its noodles and restorative beef broth.

When she was 19 and heavily pregnant with her first child, she and her husband left Vietnam on a boat bound for a refugee camp in the Philippines. There, she gave



On her day off, Kim Dang cooks at home for her extended family. During the first six months of Covid, she came to work early to make soup for vulnerable Noe residents.



Kim Dang and granddaughter Kailee Shum, 12, hold the essential ingredient in pho, the soup that Dang remembers fondly from her childhood in Vietnam. Photos by Megan Wetherall

birth to her eldest son, Minh, and soon found work in a coffee shop. Some months later, sponsored by a non-profit, the young family flew on to San Francisco.

When I ask her about her first impressions of the city in 1981, her face lights up. "Oh, I loved it! I love the weather, the people here. It felt very comfortable."

Dang spent her mornings learning

English at the Mission Community School and her afternoons bent over fabrics, cutting off threads, for which she was paid a total of \$7. Her husband, meanwhile, cared for their son during the day and delivered newspapers at night.

Dang's next job was making potstickers for a flour company. That brought in \$40 for an afternoon of work. She was living in the Castro at 14th Street and

Market, which she remembers fondly as a peaceful neighborhood. I ask her how it felt to be a Chinese immigrant in San Francisco at that time and she replies that she never felt out of place. Her whole mindset was to work hard and make a living and she never experienced any prejudice.

Dang found her way into professional cooking during a two-year stint at her in-laws' restaurant in Modesto in the mid-1980s. She had been taught to cook by her own mother, whom Mao describes as a "phenomenal cook," although these days, at 87, her mother spends less time in the kitchen.

Over the years, Dang has succeeded in sponsoring her entire family to emigrate here from Vietnam. When I ask her how she spends her one precious day off, usually a Thursday, she claps her hands and laughs, saying, "I cook dinner for my son, my family, my granddaughters. I love to cook Vietnamese food! Everybody is super busy, but everyone comes home on Thursday."

Everybody except Mao, who is dialing in from a hospital in Mississippi, where she has spent the past year during Covid-19 completing her residency in family practice. Her 7-year-old daughter, Khloe, remains in the Bay Area with Mao's husband, to keep her safe.

Mao has been spared, but half of her colleagues have contracted Covid because for months they had scant protective equipment and had to recycle the same few masks. To protect her family, she has not once returned to San Francisco during this time, but now, finally, she is heading back for a multigenerational family vacation in Hawaii.

Soup for the Homebound

When shelter-in-place began last March, it was the uncertainty that was the hardest for Dang, as she tried to keep abreast of the news and manage her fears that her restaurants might not survive and, worse, her workers could be out of a job.

As it turned out, her customers continued to source comfort by ordering the dishes they have enjoyed at Eric's and Alice's for decades, such as spicy kung pao chicken, the ever popular chow mein, spicy eggplant, and Shanghai chicken.

One day, Mao's eye was caught by a notice on Nextdoor of somebody delivering homemade chicken soup to her neighbors, and she was so touched by the gesture, she called her mother to tell her. "My mom and I chat every day—she chats with all her kids every day—and my mom said, 'Oh, I could do that, and I could do it times whatever because of the restaurant.' So Nextdoor became our platform to spread the word that if somebody

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Kim Dang's pho soup recipe, which features beef brisket and filet mignon, wouldn't be complete without jalapeños, lemons, and chopped cilantro.

Kim Dang's Family Pho

Dang's mother, Nu Luu, taught her as a girl how to make this beloved Vietnamese soup. All the ingredients should be available in Asian markets. The recipe makes enough for at least 15 bowls of soup.

Ingredients

- 2 whole onions, unpeeled
- 1 large piece of ginger, unpeeled but lightly smashed with the handle of a knife
- 5 pounds beef bones (meaty bones, ideally including marrow)
- 1 large piece of beef brisket
- 4 beef tendons (optional)
- 3 packets of pho seasoning cubes
- 1 packet of pho spices
- 6 teaspoons of white sugar
- Beef meatballs (about 3 per serving, also available at Asian markets)
- Pho noodles (count one handful of dry noodles per serving)
- Filet mignon, thinly sliced (count about 10 thin slices per serving)

For the Garnish

- Green onions, chopped
- Cilantro, chopped
- Bean sprouts
- Lemons, cut into quarters
- Jalapeños, thinly sliced

1. Bring a large stock pot of water to a rolling boil. Add beef bones and boil for 10 minutes to clean them. Pour off the scummy water and put the bones to one side.

2. Place whole onions and ginger on a tray in a hot oven and roast, flipping regularly, until the onions are caramelized

and starting to collapse. Remove from the oven and put to one side.

3. Pour 20 quarts of water into a big stock pot. Bring to a rolling boil and then carefully lower in the onions, ginger, beef bones, brisket, and tendons (if using). Boil vigorously for 3 and a half hours uncovered or until the tendons are very soft.

4. Add the bag of pho spices and continue to boil soup for another 30 minutes, then remove the spice bag and drop in the three cubes of pho seasoning. After 10 more minutes remove the bones and discard. Reserve the brisket and tendon on one side to cool and then slice them to be added to the soup when serving.

5. In the last 10 minutes, stir in the sugar, season the soup with a little salt, and add the meatballs to cook. The soup is now ready.

6. For the noodles, heat a saucepan of water, and once it is boiling grab a handful of pho noodles and lower them into the water using a handheld mesh strainer basket. With a pair of chopsticks, move the noodles around quickly for 10 seconds and then strain and tip them into the first bowl. Repeat for each serving.

7. Once each bowl contains a portion of noodles, ladle on the steaming soup and meatballs. Gently lower about 10 thin slices of raw filet mignon into the soup. Add some brisket and tendon slices if desired. Top with green onions and cilantro and serve.

8. Allow each person to garnish at the table as desired with bean sprouts, sliced jalapeño, thai basil, and lemon. Serve with hoisin sauce and sriracha in little condiment dishes on the side.



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A Restaurant That Warms the Heart

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

was older, immunocompromised, or had a need to stay home, we would deliver them soup,” said Mao.

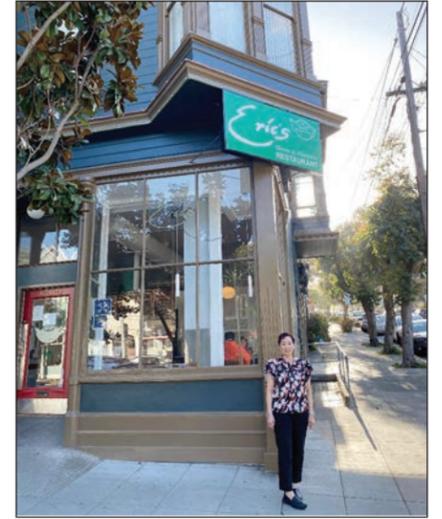
Because Dang’s staff was already swamped with doing takeout, she would come in early before her usual shift, to prep, cook, and deliver the soups personally. As time went on and more people were added to the list, Dang moved from making soup to more elaborate entrees such as broccoli cashew chicken or sweet and sour chicken, always trying to offer variety.

They were getting overwhelmed, so once again Mao posted on Nextdoor asking for help with the deliveries, and was amazed by the generous response. From her hospital in Mississippi, Mao coordinated the team, creating a Google spreadsheet on which she mapped all the addresses and any special dietary needs. Then she would send the orders to Dang, who would make the meals and dispatch the 20 volunteers to deliver them.

As a physician, Mao also spoke to each of the volunteers about safety protocols and the need for contactless delivery. At the peak, they were feeding 60 vulnerable Noe Valley residents a day. They would have continued, but at a certain point Mao’s hospital duties became all-consuming.

Welcome Back

Now, almost a year to the day since it had to close its doors to sit-down dining, Eric’s is once again open for lunch and dinner and able to seat 20 to 25 people at a time. Dang, who has been concerned about the health of her customers, says



Co-owner Kim Dang stands in front of Eric’s Restaurant at Church and 27th streets, one of the neighborhood’s most aromatic—and appreciated—landmarks.

Photo by Megan Wetherall

she is delighted and relieved to welcome them back.

After our tea and conversation, I walk over to the corkboard next to the restaurant’s kitchen, on which many thank-you cards are pinned. One reads, “Thank you for making the world, and my world, a better place.”

For Dang, it has been an opportunity to be of service and to offer nourishment to the community that has sustained her and her family for three decades. ■

Eric’s Restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 8:30 p.m. The famous lunch special is now \$9.25 (seafood is \$9.75) and includes entrée, rice, soup, orange slices, and, of course, fortune cookies.

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New Pets Likely to Tell Owners ‘Stay Home’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

adopted in droves during Covid.

Deb Campbell, who volunteers as a public relations coordinator at ACC, said, “We took in fewer animals in the past year, and the animals we offered for adoption—virtually—were adopted really fast. Even pitbulls, who normally stay here awhile, were adopted quickly.”

SFSPCA President Jennifer Scarlett shared a similar sentiment. “We’ve seen a huge surge in the demand for adoptions during the pandemic. People are searching for the love and comfort that an animal provides, and those who previously didn’t have time to welcome a new animal into their home might now have the ability to do so,” she said. “One of the silver linings of the pandemic is that many animals who used to have long lengths of stay in the shelter, like seniors or those with special needs, are now getting adopted very quickly.”

Parade of ‘Pandemic Puppies’

Noe Valley’s pet stores, The Animal Company and Noe Valley Pet Company, both saw an increase in puppies visiting their shops during the summer and fall of 2020. And this spring too.

Josh Sandifer, who has worked at Noe Valley Pet Company at Church and Cesar Chavez for 10 years, said, “There were a lot of first-time pet owners. We saw a lot of pandemic puppies.”

People were mostly stopping by for pet food or pet care advice. “We hurt for a bit with front-door-only service [in April and May 2020],” said Sandifer. “People were hurting too, trying to save more money in the economic downturn. We didn’t see people splurging on, say a new dog bed.”

The Animal Company, which sells exotic birds as well as dog and cat food, has seen great business in the last 12 months. Co-owner Rich French said, “In my 20 years, I’ve never seen so many dogs and puppies walk through our doors.”

Now a year later, people are still coming in for birds. “The demand for birds is over the top. I have people coming from the Central Valley, even out of state. I have a waitlist for birds as long as my arm,” said French.

Interview for a Kitty

Cesar Chavez Street resident Mindy Madson was neither a first-time pet owner nor an aspiring bird owner. Already a dog and cat owner, she was interested in adding another pet to the family after she lost one of her cats in summer 2020. As a former volunteer at Animal Care and Control, Madson was determined to get a cat from that shelter.

Madson said she was asked to follow the same procedure that all interested adoptees had to follow during Covid: Go online and fill out an application form. Then wait to be contacted. There was no in-person visiting. Just a photo and description of the adoptable animals. (At the press time, a look at sfanimalcare.org turned up zero cats, one dog, and four rabbits.)

The process included a Zoom interview by a volunteer at ACC. After looking and waiting all fall, Madson welcomed a new 6-year-old cat to her home on Dec. 1.

“Having Atticus around has improved my life immeasurably,” she said. He joins Nikita, Madson’s 16-year-old cat, and Rocket the dog, who is 3.

A once office-going worker who has been working from home for more than



After a year of lockdown, Noe Valley has a plethora of puppies, according to reports from pet stores in the neighborhood.

Photo by Kala Hunter

13 months, Madson said, “I welcome the responsibility and distraction from the daily monotony of living and working in the same space.”

Before the pandemic, Madson rode Muni downtown every day to Wells Fargo, and had to leave her pets at home. Rocket had a dog walker. “Wells Fargo is bringing employees back into the office in the fall. I am not too worried about Atticus, once I go back. He’s proven he can handle himself around the other cat and the dog. I am more worried about the dog.”

Long-Distance Adoption

During lockdown, Nicki Michaels, a 29-year Noe Valley resident who just a few years ago moved to Glen Park, found solace in walking the stairs with her husband in Diamond Heights above Glen Canyon Park.

In April 2020, Michaels started to look around for a furry friend to adopt to join her and her partner on their walks. “All of the rescue places in San Francisco had fostered out all of their dogs. If I wanted a toy poodle, I was going to have to look outside of the city and even the Bay Area,” Michaels said.

She searched for three months until she had her first-ever internet date. “He came straight to me when I called him on the iPad.” It was love at first FaceTime.

Michaels rescued a toy poodle mix—originally named Chubby, now named Chubbaca—from Southern California. The 12-year-old dog now joins the couple on their 320-step walks. Michaels said the dog’s stated age was a bit of a misnomer. “I was told he was 8 years old. But a vet said he was 12. But he runs up 320 stairs like he’s 8!” She’s happy. “He brought in a new element of interest and fun during our same indoor days.”

Michaels has no office or work to go to, and she’s committed to shelter-in-place—“I haven’t been to a grocery store in a year”—so she plans to spend lots of time with Chubbaca.

If and when she has to leave Chubbaca home alone, Michaels said she will use the same thing that brought him into her life in the first place: technology. She plans to set up a Zoom meeting with the

poodle when she and her husband venture out to the Ferry Building farmers market. They will keep an eye on their pup that way and see how he behaves.

If You Must Be Separated

The SF SPCA has created a few to-dos for those who are returning to the office and leaving you-know-who at home:

“Don’t make a big deal about it. They [your pet] can also sense the anticipation. If you will be gone for an extended period, have someone like a neighbor or dog walker spend quality time with your pet while you’re away. Now is a good time to advocate for pet-friendly offices.”

French of The Animal Company acknowledged the potential for people to spend less time with their birds, should they have to be away for longer stretches.

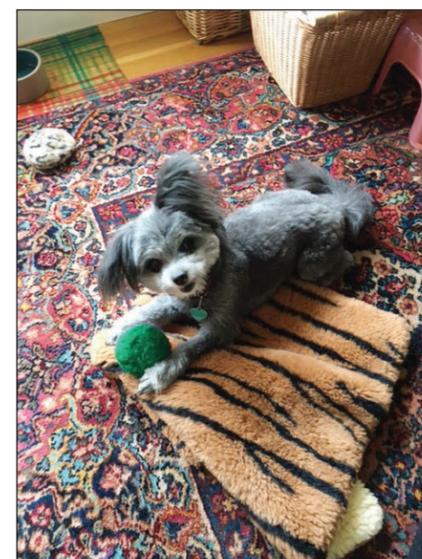
But he said, “I’m hopeful that those who adopted during the pandemic don’t lose their fascination with their bird. I don’t think that will change.”

ACC’s Campbell also notes, “We have not seen any increase in surrendered or returned animals as people go back to their offices.”

Though the adoption centers remain closed, ACC and SF SPCA will continue to accept interested dog and cat owner applications by appointment. For those who missed out on getting a pet pre-pandemic, there might be a long wait. Then again, do you like rabbits?

No matter how we shift into the new-old normal, taking care of our animal companions will be a top priority for Noe Valley residents.

As the flowers bloom and the desire to commingle with other humans grows, people will remember: our pets need us, the same way we need them. ■



A new addition to Nicki Michaels’ household is the internet-savvy Chubbaca, who hails from Southern California.

Photo courtesy the Michaels family

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Family Reunification Will Be a Challenge For Biden's New Task Force

By Mary Jo McConahay

During the U.S.-backed wars in Central America of the 1980s, I met parents whose children were whisked off by U.S.-backed militaries, never to be seen by their families again.

President Joe Biden's Family Reunification Task Force, created in February to find parents of children taken at the border under Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy, can learn lessons from those historic separations in El Salvador and Guatemala: Despite best intentions, the harm cannot be undone. Beware of Central American governments, which have protected adoptions of children irregularly taken from their parents. Partner instead with highly motivated private groups.

On an autumn morning in 1985, Niris Menjivar, then 41, showed me the last place he had seen his daughter, Reina, 11, three weeks before. "Do you think she will know she is not an orphan?" he asked. We were in territory held by leftist rebels, supported by peasant farmers like Menjivar who had long suffered at the hands of an abusive government, and were suffering even more acutely from bombardment, after Washington began supplying air power to San Salvador. When local people feared a government military operation, they packed food and infants on their backs and fled to remote mountain corners on treks they called *guindas*. On the last *guinda*, returning with other men carrying water to where women and children sheltered, Menjivar said he watched helplessly

OTHER VOICES

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from behind a boulder, unable to cry out without giving away the hiding place of neighbors, as a military helicopter lifted off with his daughter, and soldiers captured others.

"Do you understand?" he asked, as if asking forgiveness.

"The torture is ongoing," Adriana Portillo-Bartow of Chicago, a retired community services worker, told me recently. In 1980, Portillo-Bartow's daughters Glenda, 9, and Rosaura, 10, and her 18-month-old half-sister, Alma, were taken in a military raid from a house suspected as a hideout for rebels in Guatemala. She never saw them again.

Portillo-Bartow has worked for Amnesty International and testified in courts and to a truth commission about missing Guatemalan children. The Guatemala government targeted families thought to favor rebels "as a way to deter others," she said. Trump used the "same logic, the same kind of sadistic policy planned to cause damage, punishment for coming to the United States."

At least 3,000 children went missing during the war in El Salvador; 5,000 went missing in Guatemala. Neither government pursued reunions. Those that have taken place have been organized largely by private groups, such as one founded by a Jesuit priest in El Salvador, another by mental health advocates in Guatemala, and still others by organizations of the once-missing children—now adults—in the United States and Europe.

In 2000, Luis Curruchich, then 48, sat in a wooden chair outside his house in Santa Anita Las Canoas, Guatemala, and told me he was still lamenting the loss of his daughter, Aura Marina, who had disappeared at age 3 during a 1980 army attack on his village. "She would be 23 now," he said.

A Guatemalan Catholic Church report said missing children were taken to army bases before being given to soldiers and officers, or placed in orphanages or trafficked into adoptions; guerrillas took two adolescent boys to join their ranks. Americans adopted more than 30,000 Guatemalan children from those years until 2008, when a corrupt adoption system was closed down



Guatemala resident Luis Curruchich, father. Photo © copyright Nancy McGirr 2000

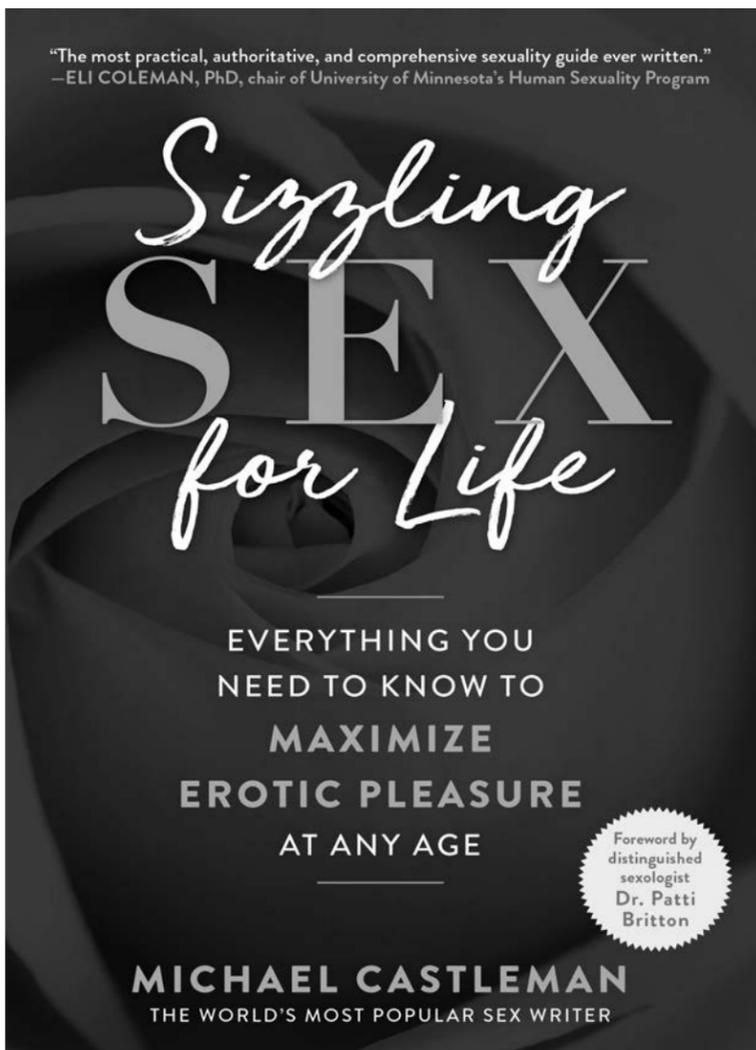
for reforms. In Honduras, a hotel clerk offered me an "adopting baby" rate as I checked in with my San Francisco-born 6-month-old one day in 1987. I found the place filled with foreigners waiting to adopt.

An estimated 2,354 Salvadoran children were adopted into the United States during the war (1980–1992). Adoption also may have been the destiny of the misplaced children of the border captures. A 2018 Associated Press investigation identified "holes" in the U.S. legal system that permitted granting legal custody to families caring for migrant children without notifying the children's parents. Some were separated during the Obama administration, which deported three million persons, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Gemma Givens of Berkeley, a founder of Next Generation, an association of Guatemalan adoptees in 19 countries who are looking for their birth families—and who sometimes find them—told me the children separated recently at the U.S.-Mexico border will need "emotional support" if their parents are not found despite the task force's efforts, and they too may want to search someday.

Immigration hardliners amenable to family separation remain working in the new administration. The cycle of Central American children torn from their parents seems endless. "It has to stop," Portillo-Bartow said. ■

Mary Jo McConahay is a prize-winning author, journalist, and documentary filmmaker who has lived on Chattanooga Street for more than 30 years. Her latest book is *The Tango War: The Struggle for the Hearts, Minds, and Riches of Latin America During World War II*. Read additional essays at McConahayGlobeWatch.blogspot.com.



That was fun, but if you really want to be my superhero...

Author Michael Castleman, a 40-year Noe Valley resident, is the world's most popular sex expert—his PsychologyToday.com blog, "All About Sex," and his Q&A site, GreatSexGuidance.com, have attracted more than 50 million views.

"I wish every man I've ever known had read this book! It's practical, positive, sexy, funny, kind, and humane. A terrific, helpful, reassuring resource."
—Katie Kleinsasser, communications, Planned Parenthood

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REMEMBER

Paul Marshall, Loving Husband And Father

By Laura McHale Holland

Paul Marshall and Olivia Boler’s love story began in 1991, when they both landed summer jobs at the San Francisco YMCA’s Camp Jones Gulch in the Santa Cruz Mountains. During counselor training amid majestic redwood trees, Paul, a quiet guy with blue eyes and a honey-brown ponytail, caught Olivia’s eye because, she recalled, he looked sweet and kind.

On the ride home, he surprised her. “He started doodling this picture, and he passed it to me and said, ‘Now you draw,’” Olivia said. “So we drew a picture together, and when we got to my mom’s home to drop me off, he gave me the picture with his phone number on it.”

At summer’s end, educational opportunities put many miles between them, but the pair’s bond grew no matter how far they roamed. Eventually, they both landed in San Francisco, where their joint drawings continued, and marriage, home ownership (in Noe Valley), and children followed.

Sadly, their love story took a tragic turn on Feb. 2, 2021, when Paul succumbed to small-cell lung cancer about nine months after his diagnosis.

Born on Oct. 1, 1972, in Panorama City, Paul spent his early childhood in the Los Angeles area. His family moved north when he was a pre-teen, living briefly in Berkeley and then settling in Mill Valley, where he graduated from Tamalpais High School in 1990. He then enrolled in the San Francisco Art Institute.

His choice of school was no surprise to Paul’s mother, Carol Marshall.

“Paul was an unusually creative little person right from the start,” she recalled. “He always looked at things from a unique perspective and wasn’t afraid to try new things, question why things were the way they were, do things in his own way. To me, those are hallmarks of an artistic spirit.”

Shortly before he graduated with a bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture and a minor in ceramics, Paul asked Olivia to marry him. They wed in 1997. Early in their marriage, Paul shared stu-



A fund to benefit YMCA camps for kids has been set up in Paul Marshall’s memory.

dio space outside their home and participated in Open Studios. Olivia described his work as mostly abstract and influenced by prominent nature artist Andy Goldworthy, so he often worked with shapes that might occur organically in nature.

In 2002, his artist’s statement read, in part, “This art is what comes out of me, and there isn’t much I can do to control the outcome. I would like to say that I have planned every step and every stroke, but I cannot. The process is simple. I put hand to materials, add time, and stop before it’s too late.”

“This art is what comes out of me, and there isn’t much I can do to control the outcome. I would like to say that I have planned every step and every stroke, but I cannot. The process is simple. I put hand to materials, add time, and stop before it’s too late.”

—Paul Marshall

After the arrival of their daughter, Ludyvine (Lulu), and son, Renzo, now 15 and 12, respectively, Paul involved the children in joint drawing. “He would start with a doodle or pattern on paper, and he’d have Lulu or Renzo draw something, and he’d fill it in with other patterns, so they have all these collaborations,” Olivia said.

Paul also carved out a career working for boutique construction and design companies. For the last nine years, he served as office manager for Zack | de Vito Architecture + Construction in South Park. To mitigate the effects of his sedentary job, Paul biked to and from work. He also became a vegan in 2015. “He just felt like eating meat and things made from animals was unethical the more he read about it,” Olivia said.

Olivia and Paul have been members of the *Noe Valley Voice* family for many years, she as a writer and editor and he

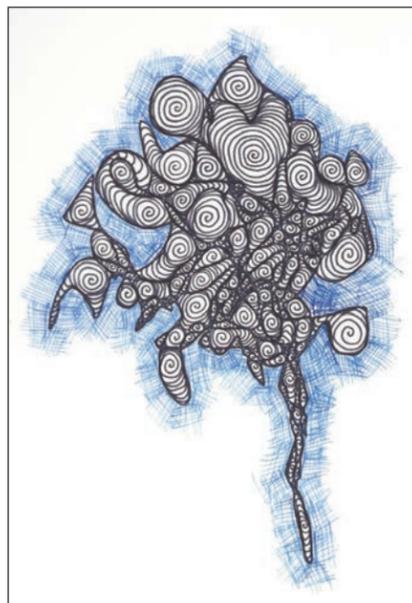
with homework, doing all those things that take a person who is good with kids.” He also relished family adventures. “At Camp Mather, he would swim with them. At the beach, he would build sand castles. Our kids were also on swim teams, so we spent a lot of weekends at swim meets volunteering to help out with things like timing the children.”

In reflecting on Paul as a husband, Olivia said, “He was the one person in this world who would put up with my nonsense. I think that’s what finding a partner is: finding that person, that unconditional love. I could say almost anything to him. I could be myself and be safe and comfortable. He was kind, he was patient, he could be really silly and funny, and he was fair. He was also very capable. He took care of us emotionally and in a practical way, too.”

In addition to Olivia, Lulu, Renzo, and his mother, Carol, Paul is survived by his father, Edward Marshall; stepfather, Thomas Price; brother, Jon Marshall; and step-siblings Anna, Andrea, and Ben Price.

Due to the pandemic, Paul’s memorial has not yet been scheduled. His ashes will be mixed with soil (so as not to harm the environment) and buried at a tree in a grove dedicated for this purpose. The tree is a majestic redwood.

Editor’s Note: Friends and family have launched a fund in memory of Paul to benefit the YMCA’s camps for youth and teens. To donate to the Paul C. Marshall Camp Jones Gulch Memorial Fund, go to <https://www.ymcasf.org/give/donate-now?kwofrid=J3279R6>. ■



Untitled, 2017.

Paul Marshall

NOE VALLEY

MARKET UPDATE | APRIL 1–29 2021

SINGLE FAMILY	YoY% CHANGE	CONDO/ COOP/TIC	YoY% CHANGE
NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS
7	-37%	4	0%
LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT
6	+500%	9	+800%
NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD
14	+600%	11	+175%
MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM
13	+160%	12	+20%
MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT
\$1,221	-15%	\$1,003	-17%
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE
\$3.615M	+35%	\$1.35M	-21%

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Fridays at 7:00pm



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SPOTLIGHT

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TUESDAYS

Tuesday at 7:30pm



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May 2021

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VACANCIES AVAILABLE! The Assessment Appeals Board resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Board vacancies are as follows: Board 1 – one; Board 2 – four; and Board 3 – five.

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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.

The Request for Proposals is being issued by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The Board is seeking qualified firms to provide proposals for Budget and Legislative Analyst Services to provide detailed review of legislation pending before Board Committees and the Board including Annual Appropriation and Salary Ordinance, supplemental appropriation requests, leases, contract agreements, Municipal Code changes and Charter Amendments; provide policy analysis and evaluation of options for legislative initiatives that are of interest to the Board; provide policy analysis and support to the Government Audit and Oversight Committee regarding the Civil Grand Jury Reports; and perform management audits of City departments and programs to assess whether subject departments and programs are achieving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The deadline for the proposal submission is May 14, 2021. For more information, please go to SF City Partner page <https://sfcitypartner.sfgov.org/pages/Events-BS3/event-search.aspx> (Event ID 0000005205).

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San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, founded in 2016, is a national leader in the movement to end homelessness through a coordinated, equity-driven, client-focused system of compassionate services. HSH has piloted innovative models and implemented best practice solutions with measurable results. Currently there are many exciting opportunities to join our team at hsh.sfgov.org/about/jobs. Learn more about opportunities to work with our IT team and the ONE system where project management skills are highly desirable, and in program support, senior or principle analyst positions throughout the department.

Does your small and disadvantaged business provide commodities or professional, general, or construction services that can help government agencies serve the community?

On May 13, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. connect with staff from SFO, transit and transportation agencies, and government entities to: learn about upcoming contracting opportunities, network with other small businesses, expand your business with transit and government entities. For more information, go to the Outreach & Events section of SFO's Small Business Development webpage: fysfo.com/small-business-development.

The Department of Police Accountability (DPA) is a civilian-staffed oversight agency whose mission is to promptly, fairly, and impartially investigate San Francisco police officer misconduct. We investigate citizen complaints against SFPD officers, recommend policy, and periodically audit the SFPD.

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the DPA has continued to take complaints via the phone, online, or through any of SFPD's district stations. We also have continued to restock our brochures at all SFPD district stations in our seven languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Arabic, and Filipino).

Our agency is also hosting virtual outreach events throughout every month, which are posted on our website under the "meetings" section and our Twitter (@SF_DPA).

Additionally, we've continued to recruit for our summer internship program! Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to dpa.recruitment@sfgov.org. For more information regarding our internship program, reach us at <https://sfgov.org/dpa/> or (415) 241-7711.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

\$3 Million and Counting

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley is no longer a neighborhood of million-dollar houses. It's not even a \$2 million neighborhood.

The favored turf of tech workers has quietly become a \$3 million enclave, thanks to the ongoing construction of new luxury homes and the lavish makeovers of existing residences.

The fact was demonstrated again in March, when Noe Valley shoppers purchased 16 single-family dwellings at an average cost of \$3.1 million.

The month's sales—double the number in March a year ago—marked the beginning of the spring buying season and a bounce back from the once-daunt-



This five-bedroom home on Clipper Street, which features a glass penthouse, sold for \$6.3 million in March.

ing Covid-19 surges of 2020.

It also was the eighth consecutive month that the average price, with little fanfare, surpassed the \$3 million benchmark.

"I think it's safe to say we're a \$3 million neighborhood," said Randall Kostick, president of Corcoran Global Living San Francisco, which provides monthly real estate data to the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Delving deeper into the March statistics, Kostick noted that two houses sold for more than \$4 million, two in excess of \$5 million, and one topped the \$6 million mark.

He also pointed out that Noe Valley's well-heeled buyers increasingly coveted multi-level contemporary homes with spacious floor plans and sumptuous finishes, despite their sometimes incongruous look in a neighborhood populated with Victorian cottages.

"Those houses are no longer little two-bedroom, 1,200-square-foot houses," Kostick said, noting that the 16 properties sold in March contained an average 2,735 square feet of living space and many were top-to-bottom renovations.

The top seller in March was a freshly renovated designer home in the first



Buyers paid \$1.8 million for a three-bedroom condominium on 28th Street affording panoramic views of Twin Peaks and downtown. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Unit	No. in Sample	Range March 2021	Average April 2021	Average March 2021	Average April 2020
Studio	17	\$1,330 - \$2,450	\$1,974 / mo.	\$1,863 / mo.	\$2,350 / mo.
1-bdrm	91	\$1,850 - \$3,995	\$2,619 / mo.	\$2,618 / mo.	\$3,227 / mo.
2-bdrm	81	\$2,380 - \$6,500	\$3,516 / mo.	\$3,317 / mo.	\$4,278 / mo.
3-bdrm	25	\$3,300 - \$10,500	\$5,442 / mo.	\$4,668 / mo.	\$5,887 / mo.
4+-bdrm	20	\$3,995 - \$21,500	\$6,396 / mo.	\$8,239 / mo.	\$9,684 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 234 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from April 5 to 12, 2021. In April 2020, there were 79 listings. NVV5/2021

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						
March 2021	16	\$1,450,000	\$6,300,000	\$3,054,563	23	105%
February 2021	9	\$1,788,000	\$6,600,000	\$3,637,556	30	101%
March 2020	8	\$1,876,544	\$4,950,000	\$3,242,818	13	115%
Condominiums/TICs						
March 2021	15	\$491,500	\$1,822,888	\$1,381,626	46	106%
February 2021	7	\$1,190,000	\$2,230,000	\$1,625,000	24	107%
March 2020	7	\$780,000	\$2,300,000	\$1,564,286	23	112%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
March 2021	3	\$1,750,000	\$4,900,000	\$2,950,000	38	98%
February 2021	1	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	9	103%
March 2020	4	\$1,900,000	\$7,538,938	\$3,447,235	52	101%
5+-unit buildings						
March 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2021	1	\$12,950,000	\$12,950,000	\$12,950,000	136	76%
March 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—

*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. NVV5/2021

block of Clipper Street between Dolores and Church streets. On the market for \$5,750,000, the modern, light-filled house closed escrow with a 9.6 percent price bump to \$6,300,000.

The buyer got keys to a four-story mansion with 3,574 square feet of living space. That was room enough for five bedrooms (including a glass-enclosed penthouse) and six bathrooms, along with a two-car garage.

And the home had plenty of other bells and whistles: premium kitchen appliances, a marble island, floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, a media room with hidden ceiling projector, a backyard gas fire pit, two decks, and panoramic views that stretched from Twin Peaks to the bay.

Buyers looking for a Noe Valley address also purchased 15 condominiums in March. That was twice as many as a year ago, when virus worries were starting to take hold.

"People are snatching up condos because the houses are \$3 million," Kostick said, noting that the average sale price of an attached unit in March hovered around \$1.5 million.

Like their detached-home counterparts, condo buyers showed a preference for palatial interiors. Of the 15 units that changed hands in March, Kostick said eight were two-bedroom, five were three-bedroom, and one had four bedrooms. There was only a single one-bedroom.

In the coronavirus era, with so many

employees working from home, "people don't want to be stuck in a one-bedroom condo," said Kostick. "It's too small."

The priciest condo in March was a stylish three-bedroom, two-bath home with 1,639 square feet of living space. It sold for \$1,822,888, nearly 2 percent above its asking price (\$1,788,000).

Located in the steep 400 block of 28th Street, between Castro and Noe streets, the residence was on the top floor of a three-story building and included a chef's kitchen, a master bedroom suite with dual closets and a shower with body jets, a family room with a gas fireplace, a high-tech security system, back yard and patio, expansive views, and one-car parking. ■

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a bar and restaurant whose design and menu promise to reflect your tastes.

MR. DIGBY'S BAR & RESTAURANT
 1199 Church St. at 24th Street
 415-896-4973
 www.mrdigbys.com

By the time their daughter turned 2 months old last June, Kristen and Mike McCaffery fully expected to be juggling their duties as first-time parents and restaurateurs. The couple had closed escrow the previous January on the property at 1199 Church St., home of the late Noe's Cantina, and expected to open their new restaurant five months later.

But then came the Covid-19 epidemic, and they had to shelve their original timeline. With the health crisis upending the restaurant business for much of 2020, Kristen focused on being a new mom while assisting her sister, Kathryn Gianaras, in keeping afloat NOVY, the eatery the two women co-own two blocks up 24th Street.

"The silver lining is it gave us [Kristen and Mike] extra time to be with our daughter, who will be 1 year old next week, which is insane," Kristen told the Voice in early April. "We were able to enjoy that time and continue to plan the restaurant."

They finally opened Mr. Digby's Bar & Restaurant April 6. For the time being, the restaurant is only offering eat-in dinner service Tuesdays through Sundays from 5 to 10 p.m. (Closing time may vary depending on demand.)

The restaurant has seven tables inside, as it is following the city's Covid rules allowing eateries to run at 50 percent of their indoor capacity and to seat no more than 50 people outside in dining parklets. (Yes, they have outdoor heaters.)

Half of the seating can be reserved ahead of time via OpenTable, with the other half set aside for walk-ins.

"As soon as we get the kitchen and staffing settled in a little bit and everyone excels at dinner service, we hope to add brunch on Saturdays and Sundays in early May," said Kristen, who expects also to roll out takeout and delivery options in the near future.

The couple never thought of scraping their plans for the restaurant due to the health crisis. Having made a sub-



Owner/chefs Kristen and Mike McCaffery opened Mr. Digby's at 1199 Church St. in April with seating both inside and out. Photo by Art Bodner

stantial investment in reviving the corner location that has housed restaurants for decades, they were determined to bring their vision to fruition, said Kristen.

"We were in too deep to turn back," she said. "It was a long year."

She and her husband purchased the property for an undisclosed amount from the Basso family, which since 1982 had operated a sports bar and eatery there known simply as Noe's. Over the last five years, the bar had seen a series of owners and incarnations, as Horner's Corner, Hamlet, and then the Cantina, which closed its doors in December 2019.

Meanwhile, Kristen and Kathryn Gianaras had opened their Greek-inspired restaurant at 4000 24th St. in 2015. The site at Noe and 24th streets was where their parents, John and Vi Gianaras, had operated the Greek restaurant Panos' for nearly 20 years.

Kristen met her future husband in 2012, when she landed a job at Mission Rock Resort in the city's Mission Bay neighborhood. Mike McCaffery had helped open the restaurant that year, and also worked as general manager at Golden Bear Restaurant Group.

Mike grew up in San Mateo, while Kristen was raised in Noe Valley, which the couple now calls home.

The first week at Mr. Digby's felt "very surreal," Kristen noted.

"We are looking around and saying to

ourselves, wow, we are actually serving guests! It is actually happening after a whole year of being on pause. It is surreal but exciting," she said.

The name they chose for the bar honors a beloved pet, an Old English sheepdog Mike had as a child. The popular pooch enthralled his neighborhood, so it seemed a fitting mascot for the kind of restaurant the couple intended to operate in Noe Valley. It was chosen over a second option of Frankie's, which is their daughter Frances's nickname.

"If we ever have a second child, we didn't want them to get jealous because there wasn't a restaurant named after them," said Kristen, noting that "it is Noe Valley, and this neighborhood is half dog, so it was great."

A photo of Mr. Digby can be found hanging near the restaurant's bar. Nicole Cooley-Katz of ROY design group incorporated the canine motif into the interior design. Graphic designer Jamie Mieuli, a good friend of the family, came up with the restaurant's dog-inspired logo.

"We wanted it to feel homey and lived in and traditional but still feel new and fresh. We feel we captured both vibes, so we are excited about it," said Kristen.

As for the menu, it will expand over time. In the restaurant's opening weeks, bar bites included pimento cheese and crackers, seasonal pickles, and "loaded" devil eggs (\$5). Among the appetizers

were beef tartare (\$13), a prawn cocktail (\$16), a lettuce wedge with beets and bacon (\$14), and a green goddess kale salad with roasted sweet potato and avocado (\$11). Diners could warm up with French onion soup (\$14), salt and pepper wings (\$15), or fries (\$6).

Entrees included a chicken pot pie (\$24), pan-seared king salmon with baby artichokes (\$30), meatballs and mashed potatoes (\$24), a ham-brined pork chop with apple and braised cabbage (\$28), and a vegetarian "Chick 'Hen' & Biscuits" dish (\$21). The bar features various house cocktails (\$13) and local beers (\$8).

"We really need a few weeks to get this menu down," said Kristen.

Already, a burger will be added by May, based on customer feedback the first week. Patrons are being asked to log on to the restaurant's website and make requests on the customer survey.

"We did comment cards for NOVY at the beginning. That was essential for us to improve and give people what they wanted," said Kristen. "With Covid, there are no pens or paper we can hand out, so we are doing it online."

Their patience hopefully paid off, as responses so far have been very supportive, she said.

"In the long term, we hope to have this restaurant in the neighborhood a very long time, for 20 to 30 years," said Kristen.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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TEEN TALK

Editor's Note: What's it been like to take classes via Zoom? Teen Talk columnist Astrid Utting gave the world a glimpse in this essay, one of 35 chosen to be published in the New York Times on March 11, 2021, to mark the end of a year of pandemic. Her story begins in August, when distance learning was relatively new. But for the Noe Valley Voice Astrid has added a postscript, since she, like most middle and high school students in San Francisco, is still waiting to return to the classroom.

On or Off?

By Astrid Utting

I start my sophomore year sitting cross-legged on my bed, waiting to “enter” my physics class. I smooth the wrinkles in my blouse and tuck a stray hair behind my ears, ready to stare at a video of myself all day. Instead of my usual carefully planned school outfits, I’m rocking a pair of old sweatpants and fuzzy pink socks.

I select “video on” and hold my breath as the screen loads, anxious to meet my new classmates. Instead, I’m greeted by a sea of black screens, some with names, others accompanied by profile photos of cartoon animals and flowers. I quickly turn my video off too.

Wouldn’t it be better socially and academically if we could see each other? Possibly, but I understand that it’s an equity issue. At a public high school like mine, students are not required to turn their videos on, because not everyone has a home that they feel comfortable sharing with their classmates.

In fact, I’ve been angling my camera so that my background is my bedroom wall because I feel uncomfortable showing people I barely know the room that I share with my little sister. Her unmade bed and stuffies litter the floor. My scattered Polaroids are washi-taped to the wall.

Frankly, the option to have your video off is one of the few perks of distance learning. Hair ruffled, you could be munching on tortilla chips in bed while the teacher lectures, and no one would know.

But when everyone has their videos off, we can’t share a knowing smile when our eccentric substitute says something weird. When the teacher asks a question and the class remains silent, she can’t see that I’m listening, despite I don’t know the correct answer. When class ends and I unmute to say goodbye, I wonder if my teacher even knows who’s been talking.

It doesn’t look like we’re returning anytime soon. Not to schools like mine, with no way to safely socially distance in a building built for half the current student population. In a time when we’ve already lost so much social contact, do we really want to go through a whole school year knowing our classmates only by the names on their screens?

Lately, I’ve made an effort to turn my video on in every class. Last week, when I was the only one to show my face, I felt weird and awkward. Did anyone even care, or were they all staring at me? But finally, one girl turned her video on too! Huh, she had a short brown bob. I’d pictured her as a blonde! A look of relief passed over her face, and then she smiled at me.

Online Learning, Part 2

Now, nine months after I wrote the first article, I am feeling less motivated to turn my camera on. Constantly being aware that 30 other invisible eyes are staring at me (when I do have my camera on) has made class exhausting and more nerve-wracking than it should be. Even when two or three other people also switch on their videos, it sometimes feels like too much effort to do the same.

I do turn my camera on during PE and dance class, because the teacher needs to see my participation. And after a friend and I complained about not being able to see people’s faces in our English class, we made a deal: If either of us turns our camera on, then the other will too. It feels nice to share a smile when the teacher says something funny. I’m sure our teacher, who is constantly checking to make sure people are still there, appreciates it. But I’ll admit, some days I don’t turn my camera on at all. I’m pretty sure none of my geometry, physics, or Chinese class teachers knows what I look like!

I don’t know if it’s because I’m not as confident as I thought or I just feel lazy. Regardless, I don’t love having my camera on. It makes me feel anxious. A big part of that stems from the lack of students with their cameras on, but

another part comes from feeling vulnerable that people can see my home and from feeling self-conscious as I stare at myself in the mirror-like Zoom screen.

Remember when I mentioned the prospect of going through a whole year of knowing my classmates only by the names on their screens? Well, that is the reality.



Recently, in a Zoom meeting outside of school, I met a girl whose name I recognized from my physics class. When I introduced myself, her response was, “Yeah, I thought I recognized your name!” The absurdity of the situation didn’t occur to me until later. We had been in the same class since August, but had never met, spoken, or even seen each other’s faces.

There has been a lot of discussion surrounding mental health during the pandemic. Especially for kids. A lot of depression stems from social isolation. While I can’t claim that not being able to see my classmates causes depression, I don’t think it’s helping my mental state.

Distance learning can be tricky and frustrating. I can’t imagine what it must be like to be a teacher trying to support

students online, especially ones they never see. I also can’t imagine what it’s like to be a student with poor internet connections, a distracting learning environment, or inadequate support.

I wish teachers would urge their students to turn their cameras on once a week. It wouldn’t feel like too much of an effort, but would at least let us show our teachers we are listening, and we all could see what people look like! Maybe it would make it less awkward for those who want to show their videos the rest of the week. I think even people who don’t feel comfortable turning on their own cameras (which I understand) would benefit from seeing those who do.

I wish I could offer a deep dive into the psychology behind Zoom or had further insight into its effect on education. But I can’t solve those issues. All I can do is try to be an engaged student and a friendly classmate. And hopefully, when I return to in-person school, a Zoom classmate will see my face in the hallway and give me a smile of recognition. ■

Astrid Utting, 15, lives with her family at Duncan and Sanchez streets. As a regular contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*, she reports on what local teens are thinking and talking about. If you have ideas to suggest, write to her at editor@noevalleyvoice.com.



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Gone to the Dogs. Sasha (right) and Grover get instruction from Nancy Statler on just Who Let The Dogs Out at Upper Noe Dog Park.

Photo by Chris Faust



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SHORT TAKES

Aging on Screen and Online

A 99-year-old Black park ranger in Richmond, a 100-year-old dancer in Marin, and the oldest man in the world (112 years young) are the subjects of three of the 30 feature-length films and shorts being shown May 24-31 during the 10th annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging.

Festival founder and executive director Sheila Malkind, a Noe Valley resident, says, “These films show how the lived experiences of racial justice, women’s equality, family caregiving, war and peace, and other issues of today play out through the lives of our elders.”

The festival, like all events during the pandemic, is virtual this year. Films will be available during the festival on demand, online. A festival pass is \$50. Individual two- to three-hour programs of films and Q&A with the filmmakers cost \$8 each.

For more information and ticket purchase, go to www.legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org.

UNN Election a Landslide

Upper Noe Neighbors, a neighborhood advocacy group with more than 30 years under its belt, is gearing up for another round of civic action. “Despite struggles with outreach and networking during the pandemic, Upper Noe Neighbors fulfilled a goal of expanding its board this year,” announced group president Olga Milan-Howells in an April 20 email. “At an April 21 virtual meeting, the entire current board stepped up to affirm their commitment to serving another year at the same positions. Additionally, two new directors at large joined the ranks, Tony Harris and Michael Shpizner. We are excited about the skills, energy, and community spirit they bring to our group.”

Milan-Howells, who is a co-founder of the Mexico foundation Amor del Bueno (which partners with the One Love organization here) and a broker with Sotheby’s International, also shared the names of the other officers and board members. Retired teacher and FUNDORG co-chair Chris Faust, mental health therapist and HealthRIGHT 360 clinical head Erin Zielinski, and Planet Labs engineer Bryan Klofas will continue their respective roles as vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Also staying on, as the group’s land use chair, is Andy Levine, founder and principal of Levine Architects. In addition to Shpizner, a retired attorney, and Harris, who is the acting director of ABM and Demand Generation at Drift, the UNN’s directors at large include



Among the 30-plus films featured in the Legacy Film Festival on Aging May 24–31 is *No Time to Waste*, about Betty Reid Soskin, 99, and her work as a park ranger at Rosie the Riveter Park in Richmond, Calif.

David Emanuel, a marketing consultant and FUNDORG co-chair; and Marianne Hampton, who serves on the boards of several local nonprofits.

Last month, the group was busy discussing changes on Sanchez Street (see *this month’s Letters*, page 5) and a proposed development at 1900 Diamond St., which would remove trees and build 24 market-rate townhomes.

To join the Neighbors or get links to future meetings—held on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7 p.m.—email info@uppernoeneighbors.com or visit the group’s website at UpperNoeNeighbors.com.

James Lick Puts on a Show

Some of the many events we’ve missed during the past Covid year have been musicals put on by local schools. To help remedy that situation and provide fun for friends, neighbors, and families, the students at James Lick Middle School are staging an online talent show in the “Zoom barn” at James Lick on Tuesday, May 18, starting at 5 p.m.

Theater Arts teachers Keith Carames and Helen Snelgrove say the performers, who auditioned by video, range from singers and musicians to more novel acts like students coding, painting a picture, and dancing a student-choreographed dance.

Judges will rate each performance, on preparation, entertainment value, and “wow factor,” says Carames. The top three acts will receive gift cards from the Lick Parent Teacher Student Association to the tune of \$200 for first, \$125 for second, and \$75 for third place.

To attend the free virtual event, sign up on the James Lick Middle School Facebook page. The talent show is at www.facebook.com/events/297027065346226. You can cheer on your favorites with chat comments and virtual applause.

Donate Socks May 9

Homeless shelters report that clean dry socks are among their greatest need these days. They provide a layer of protection between feet and the street, and can help people avoid foot infections. And new footwear can give a psychological lift as well.

As it did in April, Bethany Methodist Church at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez streets is collecting socks for the homeless. White socks are preferred. Please drop off new or laundered, lightly used socks at the 1270 Sanchez St. entrance to the church on Sunday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Bethany at 415-647-8393 or visit the church website, www.bethanysf.org.

Jacob’s New Children’s Book

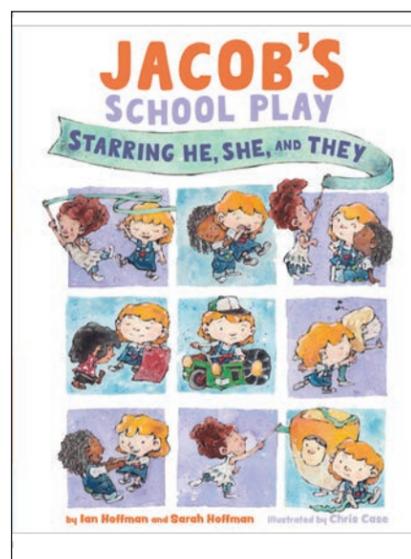
Folio Books is hosting two online book readings in May promoting diversity, one for adults and one for children.

The first, on Monday, May 3, is “Arisa White & Friends,” a presentation of the Odd Mondays series. It will feature three women of color—Arisa White, M. K. Chavez, and Vickie Vértiz—reading their poetry and celebrating publication of White’s new poetic memoir, *Who’s Your Daddy*, which is getting lots of buzz on social media. Get the link for the 7 to 8 p.m. Zoom by emailing oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

Noe Valley authors Ian and Sarah Hoffman are also celebrating a new book, the third featuring their open-minded protagonist Jacob. In *Jacob’s School Play: Starring He, She, and They*, illustrated by Chris Case, the Hoffmans introduce young readers to the idea of gender identity and how it might affect pronoun choice. Jacob has previously starred in *Jacob’s New Dress*, which was among Foreword Reviews’ 10 Best Indie Picture Books of 2014, and *Jacob’s Room to Choose* (2019), a Children’s Book Council Notable Book.

The party for the new Jacob installment is Saturday, May 15, from 1 to 2 p.m. Register for free at www.foliosf.com/events.

Be sure to buy copies of the books from Folio Books at 3957 24th St. or online at www.foliosf.com. Ten percent of sales from any or all of the three Jacob books purchased before May 15 will be donated by Folio to Welcoming Schools, the anti-bullying program of the Human Rights Campaign, which works for LGBTQ+ civil rights.



Sarah and Ian Hoffman (and illustrator Chris Case) will unveil *Jacob’s New School Play: Starring He, She, and They* at a book party May 15 hosted on Zoom by Folio Books.

Help for Small Businesses

Mayor London Breed has issued a challenge to San Franciscans regarding small businesses in the city and signed new legislation to help these businesses recover from Covid-19 pandemic woes.

The challenge is to patronize only small businesses and restaurants, not chains, during the month of May. This is indeed a challenge since, according to Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker, a project of the Gates Foundation and Harvard and Brown universities, 50 percent of San Francisco’s small businesses have permanently or temporarily closed.

Chris Faust, a member of Upper Noe Merchants (a part of Upper Noe Neighbors), says, “We all applaud the mayor’s challenge to buy local, though it will have little impact on us. We have so little retail. However, if you’re in the market for pet supplies, German specialties, or culinary books, please keep Upper

Fair Oaks Street: We’re Back!

Good news for sustainable shopping: Fair Oaks Street, located a block from Dolores Street, will hold its fabled Garage Sale (formerly the Fair Oaks Street Fair) on the day before Mother’s Day, Saturday, May 8.

Sponsored by the group Fair Oaks Neighbors, the event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., along Fair Oaks Street from 21st to 26th streets.

If it’s anything like past fairs, the sale will attract bargain hunters from around the city wishing to sift through the kitchenware, toys, clothing, furniture, books, artwork, and other treasures. There also may be lemonade and cookies.

Organizers say proceeds will go toward permits and street barriers, as well as pizza for fair volunteers. The event will also support Fair Oaks Street’s Halloween hauntings. You can send donations via PayPal or find out more information at foncontributions@gmail.com.

—Sally Smith

Noe in mind.”

Also remember the corner groceries, restaurants, bakeries, manicurists, yoga studios, and gift shops along 24th, Castro, and Church streets.

In addition, legislation signed by the mayor April 9 expanded the city’s grant program to small businesses by \$10.9 million and started a community investment loan program. Businesses have only until May 7 to apply for the expanded grants. Go to <https://oewd.org/businesses-impacted-covid-19> for details.

There is more time to apply for the community investment funds, which are \$100,000 low- or no-interest loans. For more information, check www.oewd.org, the website for the city’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Walking Tour for Moms

A moms resource group called San Francisco Bay Area Moms and an anti-bias magazine for kids called *Mighty Kind*, along with the digital platform Built Story, have designed a self-guided walking tour in Noe Valley and the Mission for Mother’s Day, May 9.

“The tour offers adults and their little ones a chance to get out, get some fresh air, and learn all about spring celebrations across the world,” says Alexina Alonso, of BuiltStory.com. “Moms and their families are guided to special local businesses and other fun spots.” At each stop, SFBAM and *Mighty Kind* will provide ideas on what to do or see, as well as multicultural content to read and enjoy. Signs related to spring traditions also will be posted in shop windows.

Alonso said to receive the content and walking directions on this their first San Francisco neighborhood tour, download the free Built Story app to your phone or other device. Once in the app, search for “SFBAM Spring.” The tour is available now through Mother’s Day, though on Mother’s Day it’s free.

A member of the nation-wide City Mom Collective, San Francisco Bay Area Moms is an online parenting publication and resource hub. Find out more at SanFranciscoMoms.com or MightyKindKids.com.

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

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May 1-9: SF Bay Area Moms offers a self-guided outdoor WALKING TOUR through Noe Valley and to Mission Dolores; tour is free on Mother's Day. Find Story app and search for "SFBAM Spring." For info: sanfrancisco.momcollective.com.

May 1-29: The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm (8 to 9 am for seniors); masks required, 6 feet distancing. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 1-30: LOLA GALLERY exhibits oil paintings of landscapes by artist Don Bardole. Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez at Clipper. lolasanfrancisco.com.

May 1-31: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous at St. Aidan's meets via Zoom, Monday through Saturday 7 to 8 am. 314-0720 or 779-6273; oasf.org.

May 1-31: The 30th Street SENIOR CENTER's Mission Nutrition program offers takeout lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

May 1-31: The SF HISTORICAL SOCIETY screens three short films about San Francisco, on their website, sfhistory.org.

May 1-June 12: CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts a virtual exhibition of oil pastel Dessert Works by Camille Holvoet, in "Cake Taxi!" 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

May 2: Political group ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com to receive the Zoom meeting link.

May 3: ODD MONDAYS features readings by three poets of color: Arisa White, MK Chavez, and Vickie Vértiz. 7-8 pm. The Zoom link is on the Odd Mondays Facebook page, or email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

MAY CALENDAR 2021

May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The San Francisco Public Library offers "Sweet Stories for Babies," virtual STORYTIMES, from 10 to 10:15 am. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25: The San Francisco Public Library offers "Sweet Stories for Families," virtual STORYTIMES, from 11 to 11:15 am. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

May 3-31: The 30th Street Senior Center offers FALL PREVENTION classes on Mondays and Thursdays, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. 225 30th. Sign up with Luz Vilanueva, 550-2265.

May 6-27: TOWN SQUARE Thursdays features the group Hipsteria and "Tender" Tim playing jazz, bossa, swing, blues, and pop music, from noon to 5:30 pm. 264-9380; hipsteria.com.

May 7, 14, 21 & 28: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church runs a free FOOD program for disabled and low-income in the 94131 zip code. 1-2 pm. 285-9540, ext. 3.

May 7-28: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts Friday JAZZ live-streaming from the shop. 7:30-9 pm. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

May 7-28: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church Zooms GAME NIGHT Fridays. 7 pm. holyinsf.org.

May 8: The Fair Oaks Street GARAGE SALE offers five blocks of bargains on Fair Oaks Street between 21st and 26th. 9 am-4 pm. Foncontributions@gmail.com.

May 8: LADYBUG GARDENERS work outdoors to tidy up the grounds of the Upper Noe Rec Center. 9 am-noon. 295 Day. Contact Joan at info@noevalleyrec-center.com.

May 8: The Asian Art Museum

offers free online MEDITATION sessions with a teacher from SF Zen Center on the second Saturday of the month. 10:30-11:30 am. asianart.org.

May 8: Bay Area ARTISTS Mark Jayson Quines, Narissa Lee, and Pyxie Castillo participate in the San Francisco Public Library's virtual panel "Art as a Vehicle for Social and Political Commentary and Change." 3-4:30 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

May 9: Bethany United Methodist Church holds a second SOCK DRIVE for the homeless. Bring new or lightly laundered, preferably white socks to 1270 Sanchez, from 11 am to 1 pm. bethanysf.org; 515-8815.

May 9: Celebrate MOTHER'S DAY with the National Women's History Alliance and Wild West Women at Linda Allen's Zoom presentation "Here's to the Women." 3 pm. GlenParkHistory.org.

May 11: SFMTA holds a virtual meeting on plans for SLOW SAN-CHEZ Street. 6 pm. Email Brian.Liang@sfmta.com for the link.

May 11: Community Music Center hosts "GYPSY JAZZ Legacy Past and Present," with Scott Feichter. 6-7 pm. 647-6015; sfcmc.org.

May 12: The RECOLOGY Artist in Residence program offers a monthly webinar, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," to discuss the sorting of materials. 12:30 pm. recology.com.

May 13: LITQUAKE's Epicenter hosts a book launch for Forest Gander's new poetry collection, *Twice Alive*. 5-6 pm. Registration required: litquake.org.

May 13: On Lok celebrates 50th birthday with a "live auction" and special videos. Watch from home 5-6 pm. 550-2210; onlok.org.

May 13 & 27: SF NEON hosts online tours, Cinematic SF Neon," *Dark Passage* to *Vertigo* on May 13, and *Pal Joey* to *Big Eyes* on May 27. 8:45-10 pm. sfneon.org.

May 15: Shaping SF offers a WALKING TOUR, "New Deal Murals, Italian SF, and Trash!" Noon-3 pm. RSVP required to shaping@foundsf.org.

May 15: Folio Books hosts a virtual BOOK LAUNCH party for Ian and Sarah Hoffman's latest, *Jacob's School Play: Starring He, She, and They*. 1-2 pm. foliosf.com.

May 16: The Slow Sanchez group hosts a FREE ART DAY to decorate the "Post More Bills" sign just outside the Upper Noe Rec Center; paint, markers, and chalk provided. 10 am-2 pm. slowsanchezsf@gmail.com.

May 17-June 15: LITQUAKE is accepting submissions for the 2021 Litquake Festival, scheduled for Oct. 7 to 23. For guidelines: litquake.org.

May 18: James Lick Middle School hosts a virtual TALENT SHOW, open to grades six through eight. 5 pm. sfusd.zoom.us.

May 19: UPPER NOE Neighbors holds its regular Zoom meeting on third Wednesdays. 7 pm. Sign up at uppernoeneighbors.com.

May 20: Sally Love Sanders offers POETRY Conference Calls with the organization Covia Well Connected, which connects older adults. 10-11 am. 877-797-7299; covia.org/services/well-connected.

May 20: Kung Pao KOSHER

COMEDY hosts digital "Lockdown Comedy" hosted by Lisa Geduldig. 6 pm. cityboxoffice.com.

May 20: TOTAL SF BOOK CLUB, founded by *Chronicle* columnist Heather Knight and pop culture critic Peter Hartlaub, features a discussion with Alia Volz, author of *Home Baked: My Mom, Marijuana, and the Stoning of San Francisco*. 7-8 pm. Register at sfpl.org.

May 21: The 30th Street Senior Center offers a UCSF "BRAIN HEALTH and Memory Workshop" third Fridays from noon to 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2210 or lduran@onlok.org.

May 24-31: The 10th Legacy FILM FESTIVAL on Aging features documentaries from around the world, screening online, on demand. legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org.

May 25: The San Francisco Public Library hosts a BOOK DISCUSSION of *Chinatown Pretty: Fashion and Wisdom from Chinatown's Most Stylish Seniors*, with authors Andria Lo and Valerie Luu. 7-8 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

May 25: The SF HISTORY Association offers "Radio Memories of San Francisco," hosted by Jack French. 7 pm. The Zoom link will be sent the morning of the meeting. sanfranciscohistory.org.

May 29: Lydia Chon from Rae Studios leads a virtual K-POP DANCE CLASS, for beginning and intermediate levels. 1-1:45 pm. 557-4400; sfpl.org.

HAVE A NICE MAY!
The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **June 2021** issue, distributed the first week of June. The deadline for Calendar items is **May 15**. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

May: We Live in Interesting Times

By Mazook

JUST THE VAX, MA'AM: We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it does not appear to be a freight train. For over a year, we've been sending "Maydays," distress signals that Covid put us in a life-threatening situation. Now, at press time, San Francisco appears to be moving down the Yellow Tier road, into the land of "minimal virus risk." Hooray!

Meanwhile, the latest stats from our health department show Noe Valley, Glen Park, and Castro/Upper Market neighborhoods each have some of the lowest new case rates (per 10,000 residents) in all of San Francisco. See all the neighborhood numbers at data.sfgov.org/stories/s/Map-of-Cumulative-Cases/adm5-wq8i/

In the Yellow Tier, masks will no longer be needed when one is outdoors alone or in small groups. Capacity levels will go up for most of our businesses and outdoor events. The question heard most from neighbors and friends is, "Have you been fully vaxxed?" "Yes!" Then it's, "How do you feel?" "Relieved!" Your proof-of-vaccination card will allow you access to so much more.



SHAKEA LEG: These past few months, the Noe Valley Town Square has been a safe haven for many. It's a meeting place in the mornings and in the afternoons. Noe Courts and Upper Noe Recreation Center playgrounds are also well attended. At the UNRC, the playground, exterior basketball court, tennis court, field, and Joby's Dog Run are open daily.

The Douglass Playground athletic field is not yet available, but the basketball court is—there's one full court, first come, first serve. There's one full tennis court, again, first come, first serve, as well as the restrooms. And yes, the Upper Douglass dog park area is finally open for romping.

The George Christopher Playground in Diamond Heights has just reopened after a two-year renovation. Park improvements include a new playground, resurfaced pathways and lighting, and the clubhouse's restrooms have been reconfigured to a single-user one and a gender-neutral multi-user one. The park's amphitheater was transformed into a plaza and the playground has areas for both big and little kids, including swings, a climbing structure, a whirl, and an "Imagination Garden." Kids are loving it.

Glen Park walks have been very popular for the past many months. Glen Canyon is a fantastic place to stroll.

As for me, my playground has been the streets and alleys of Noe Valley, where I take my daily walk. Sometimes up 24th Street, or up Chattanooga or Fair Oaks. Often I go up Quane Alley from 24th to 21st, and back down Church. Or maybe I take a walk on our Slow Sanchez from 24th Street to 30th, then back on Church Street. Have you ever hung out in the small public garden next to the J-Church stop at 21st and Fair Oaks? I also like going up the 22nd Street stairs and down 22nd to the Jungle Stairs from Collingwood to Diamond Street and then back via Downtown Noe Valley. I live in a truly quaint urban village.



PAINTING THE TOWN: I have enjoyed sitting in the Town Square after my walks in the neighborhood on the many sunny days we've had this spring, soaking up the sun and listening to the music during the weekday afternoons, talking with friends and acquaintances who have gathered there, and



But Does It Have a Deck? The house that once belonged to 1920s Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph, at 3690 21st St., is for sale, for a brow-lifting \$11,850,000. Run, don't walk.

Photo courtesy Robert Levy/Compass Real Estate/Open Homes Photography

admiring the wonderful murals on the adjoining buildings.

The murals, created by world-class muralist Mona Caron, are truly a neighborhood treasure. But I am saddened that they have become somewhat dilapidated. The East Wall with its wonderful depictions of old Downtown Noe Valley is fading, slowly but surely, and the West Wall has paint that's peeling.

I contacted Caron about my concerns. She responded, "Yes, they do kind of need a bit of love. The East wall would be quick and easy to fix, except the new trellis there makes the wall difficult to reach with a lift. The West wall is easier to reach, but is harder and a much more time consuming fix, because the underlying surface is the problem [and the reason] the paint is peeling."

Town Square manager Leslie Crawford also responded to my hue and cry. She said: "I contacted Mona several years ago about whether she could do this and how much it would cost. I can't remember the exact amount, but it was somewhere around \$20,000, so it would need to be an art grant or some community effort."

It would seem that to repair the murals these days would cost even more. East Wall. West Wall. Well, community, can we do something?



It's Still Wild. Not to worry. The so-called "Jungle House" at 1079 Church St. is not in danger of a white-washing. The iconic house is having some interior murals done by Prairie Prince, the well-known artist-musician who was part of a touchup of the façade in 2014.



WILD NOE VALLEY: Speaking of murals, another neighborhood gem is the house at 1079 Church near 23rd Street called the Smith Cottage (a sign on the front says that), which is popularly known as the "Jungle House" for its colorful painted-mural façade. The front of this residence was painted in 1992 by muralist Nicolai with her assistant R. Loria, and restored and revised in 2014 by artist Prairie Prince, with Amanda Lynn and Lindsey Millikan and the metal artist Morgan Raimond.

"We moved here in 1988, and decided the house needed to be repainted," says David Smith and wife Debbie Smith, "and we wanted something better than the drab faded colors on the side facing Church Street." They discussed their plans with neighbors and friends and came up with the jungle theme. "Once we finished it,"

said Debbie Smith, "we were complimented by all of our neighbors."

After more than 20 years, the colors had faded, so they decided to restore the mural and make it more elaborate. "When we put up the scaffolding in 2014, many neighbors and people walking by became very concerned, and most often told us, 'You are not going to paint over the front, are you?' Everyone was reassured that they were keeping the jungle theme and making it better."

They chose a well-known painter, muralist, graphic artist, and musician, Charles Lempriere "Prairie" Prince, who has a studio on the east side of Bernal Heights. He has played drums for The Tubes since the 1980s, was a founding member of the San Francisco band Journey, and played with Jefferson Starship. Currently, he's drumming with Todd Rundgren.

The house mural, said David Smith, "became somewhat of a 'community project,' as our neighbors had some great suggestions, which Prairie incorporated into the theme. Prairie has remained our friend over the past seven years, and he is currently painting murals on our interior walls and has finished most of the foyer at the front door," says Smith.



A MANSION OF ONE'S OWN: The talk of Liberty Hill is the "Mayor's Mansion" at 3690 21st, which is now on the market. The "single-family," 4,700-square-foot house (that's \$2,521 per) can be yours for the modest price of \$11,850,000. It is being listed by Robert Levy of Compass Real Estate.

The large Tudor mansion, on the corner Sanchez Street, was built in 1929 by San Francisco Mayor James J. Rolph (from 1912 to 1932), allegedly as a "cottage" for his mistress, silent film star Anita Page. "Sunny Jim," as he was called, became a U.S. senator in 1932 and died in '34. Then the house was purchased by an eye surgeon. The fountain in the front is rumored to have been a gift from Benito Mussolini for a successful eye surgery a family member received in the mid-1930s.

Frederick Roeber and his then-wife Gina Sanfilippo purchased the home from its longtime owners, the Salaman family, in August 2008 for \$4.3 million. As some of you techies might know, Roeber, a physicist and software writer, was one of the founding fathers of the WorldWideWeb. Levy noted that the property underwent a five-year \$8 million expansion and renovation seven years ago.

Roeber died suddenly on May 6, 2020, and left the house to his alma mater, Caltech. The university is now selling it. Said Frederick's brother Jim Roeber, "He was a very private person, somewhat of a recluse, but fell in love with the city when he arrived here in 2001, and loved Noe Valley and his house and was passionate in its restoration."

Across the street at 801 Sanchez St. (on the southeast corner), the mansion that was bought a couple of years ago by Mike Krieger for \$10 million is now being de-

molished. Krieger was the cofounder of Instagram, which Facebook bought for \$1 billion in 2012.

As most of you know, Facebook cofounder Mark Zuckerberg lives down on 21st Street at the corner of Fair Oaks St. Neighbors tell me he bought the house next door a while back (on the west side) and has been "remodeling" it for about a year. The front of the structure is obscured by a great white sheet. Time will tell what it's going to look like once the mask is removed.



STORED DREK: The building that had long been the home of Castro Computer, at 1500 Castro at 25th Street, has been extensively remodeled this past year. According to public record, it will become a child-care center owned by Noe Valley Kids, Inc., whose legal rep is George Liu. I was unable to locate the gentleman and gave up after I stopped by his address, listed as 3800 22nd St. (corner of Noe). That is the storefront that used to be a laundromat for umpteen years, which closed last year after losing its lease when the building was sold. It is currently being remodeled as a commercial space, but the workers would not tell me for what business, and said they didn't know Mr. Liu. By the way, that building is famous for being the residence of Janis Joplin over 50 years ago. She lived in one of the apartments above the laundry.

And to the surprise of few, the Psychic Eye is no more, after opening in the fall of 2019 in the space once occupied by Rare Device (4071 24th St.). Psychic Eye owner Danielle Bennett offered "tarot readings, books, candles, and crystals," but the shop was rarely if ever open, especially once Covid hit.



GRIPES OF WRATH: One of the longer threads on Nextdoor social media site recently was the complaint of Howard Yellen from the Dubois Triangle, who last month posted, "I try to just post positive, useful, and friendly things on Nextdoor. So forgive this one very minor rant. At some point not too long ago the city changed how parking meters work. It used to be that if you put a card in, it defaulted to the shortest amount of time, and then you could increase with the 'up arrow.' Now it defaults to the LONGEST allowable parking period. So if you can park for two hours, it doesn't start at eight minutes for 50 cents, but 120 minutes at \$8, or whatever. This is a very low-level grift by the city. Just tax us what you need to tax us. Don't play hide the ball and try to skim a few bucks here and there. End of rant."

SFMTA spokesperson Erica Kato confirmed that since February of this year, when someone pays for their parking space by credit card, the default amount is for two hours parking, and you must then scroll down on the screen to the amount of time you might prefer to buy. If you walk away, you own that spot for two hours.



BIN CORRECTED: Before I go I want to correct a couple of editorial mistakes last month. When I was talking trash, the landfill bin at your residence was colored "gray," not "brown," which is what I wrote. It is brown at my house. However, I asked my weekly trash truck driver what color it was, and he told me it is "black." I told him that my wife and I say it is brown, and he just laughed at me. What color is your landfill bin?

And apologies to Kou Her of the Herr Family Farm for adding the extra "r" to his name. He explained that he long ago dropped the last letter "r" from his name, but the farm name has always been "Herr," which is used by the rest of the family. His dad, by the way, was one of the first farmers at the Noe Valley Farmers Market.



THAT'S 30, boys and girls. Ciao for now. See ya next time for the June swoon. ■

Adult Fiction

In Sarah Davis' first novel, **The Scapgoat**, an academic becomes entangled in California history when he investigates the death of his father.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn centers on three women employed as British code breakers during World War II who confront the secret from their past that destroyed their friendship.

In the thriller **We Begin at the End**, by Chris Whitaker, siblings must face the truth when their best friend is released from prison.

After a fatal car crash, an aspiring writer takes on the identity of a famous novelist, in **Who Is Maud Dixon?** by Alexandra Andrews.

Adult eBook Fiction

A historian finds a clue that might solve a series of poison murders in 18th-century London, in **The Lost Apothecary** by Sarah Penner.

In **Acts of Desperation** by Megan Nolan, the narrator becomes obsessed with a charismatic writer.

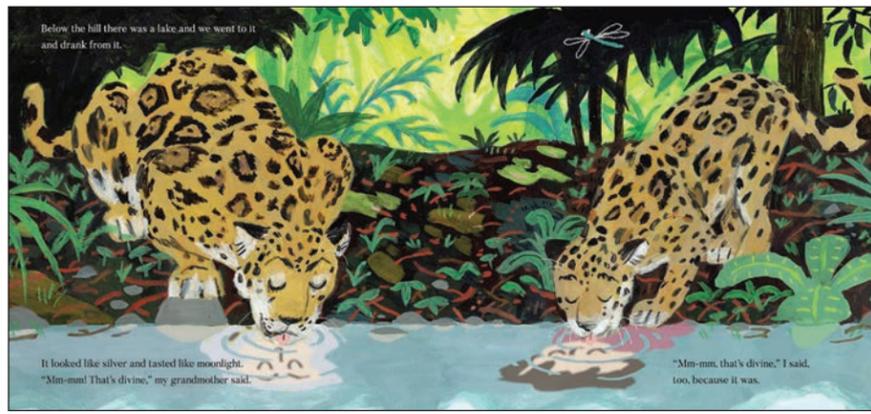
Adult Nonfiction

Free City! The Fight for San Francisco's City College and Education for All, edited by Marcy Rein, Mickey Ellinger, and Vicki Legion, describes the 2013 struggle to save the institution.

Courtney Zoffness' **Spilt Milk** is a collection of personal essays about what it's like to be a mother.

In **Dusk, Night, Dawn**, Marin writer and activist Anne Lamott offers a guide to help restore hope and joy in life.

The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race, by Walter Isaacson,



A boy and his grandmother become big cats for a day in Dave Eggers' new **We Became Jaguars**, illustrated by Woodrow White. Image courtesy Chronicle Books

MORE BOOKS TO READ

May Flowers

Although the doors are still shut at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street, Children's Librarian Catherine Starr and Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona are celebrating spring with a new list of books and films at the San Francisco Public Library.

Their selections this month include Anne Lamott's latest meditation on finding joy in life, a book on the amazing discoveries of gene editor Jennifer Doudna and, for children, Dave Eggers' tale of a boy whose grandmother shows him how to be a jaguar.

To place a hold on these or any other titles, go to sfpl.org. There, through SFPL-to-Go, you can arrange for a pickup at one of 19 library branches, including the Eureka Valley, Potrero, and West Portal Library (as of April 27). The library will let you know when your book or film is ready to pick up.

If you need assistance or have questions, call 415-557-4400, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email info@sfpl.org. While at the website, take a look at the library's virtual Events calendar. There are free story times, book clubs, authors readings, language classes, art exhibits, and how-to workshops. Take advantage.

—Sally Smith

describes the scientific breakthroughs of the 2020 Nobel Prize winner.

Adult eBook Nonfiction

Science writer Carl Zimmer ponders the questions of existence in **Life's Edge: The Search for What It Means to Be Alive**.

In **Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?**, Harvard professor Jesse McCarthy, who grew up Black in both France and America, addresses race and culture in a series of essays.

Adult DVDs

Nicole Kidman stars in **The Undoing**, a 2020 TV miniseries about a murder case that turns a New York therapist's life upside down.

A Marine veteran seeks revenge when his son is killed by a police officer, in **American Skin**, with Omari Hardwick (2019).

Season 6, 2020, of **Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr.** features the ancestry of Anjelica Huston, Queen Latifah, and Nancy Pelosi, among others.

In the 2017 drama **55 Steps**, starring Hilary Swank and Helena Bonham Carter and based on a true story, a lawyer takes on a psychiatric patient who is suing a San Francisco hospital for the right to refuse medication.

Children's Fiction

Two kids see the world in a whole new light in **Wonder Walkers**, written and illustrated with collages by Micha Archer. Ages 3 to 7.

In **The Thingity-Jig**, written by Kathleen Doherty and illustrated by Kristnya Litten, Bear finds a strange, heavy thing and figures out how to get it back to his home. Ages 3 to 8.

Brian Floca describes all the workers who do the daily essential jobs, in **Keeping the City Going**. Ages 4 to 8.

A girl in Ohio is embarrassed by her parents' roadside foraging, in **Watercress**, by Andrea Wang, with illustrations by Jason Chin. Ages 5 to 10.

In **Truly Tyler**, the first book in Terri Libenson's "Emmie & Friends" series, a middle-school boy becomes more interested in art than in sports. Ages 8 to 12.

In Kathryn Erskine's **Lily's Promise**, a shy girl who has lost her father vows to speak up against wrongs in school. Ages 8 to 12.

Boy and girl neighbors come to terms with each other in mysterious ways in **The House That Wasn't There** by Elana Arnold. Ages 10 to 13.

We Belong, about two sisters in search of their Pilipino heritage, is a novel-in-

verse by Cookie Hiponia Everman, with illustrations by Abigail Dela Cruz. Ages 10 to 14.

Children's eBook Fiction (all titles available via Hoopla Digital, Kids)

Bicycle Bash, by Alison Farrell, is a seek-and-find activity book that takes place in a Bicycle Museum. Ages 3 to 5.

A grandmother and her grandson spend a day having adventures as big cats in **We Became Jaguars**, written by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Woodrow White. Ages 4 to 8.

Real, written by Carol Cujec, illustrated by Peyton Goddard, is the story of an autistic 13-year-old who is a math whiz. Ages 8 to 11.

A 10-year-old boy and an elderly woman become friends when she talks him into taking her sailing in **Into the Wind**, written by William Loizeaux and illustrated by Laura Jacobsen. Ages 8 to 12.

Children's Nonfiction

A little iceberg leaves the North Pole, transforms to a cloud, and finally becomes a snowflake in **Blue Floats Away**, written by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Grant Snider. Ages 3 to 6.

Listening to the Stars, written by Jodie Parachini and illustrated by Alexandra Badiu, is a biography of astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who discovered pulsars. Ages 4 to 10.

A Peacemaker for Warring Nations: The Founding of the Iroquois League, written by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden, explores the peaceful alliance of five Iroquois nations and its influence on the U.S. Constitution. Ages 8 to 12.

Children's eBook Nonfiction (all titles available via Hoopla Digital, Kids)

A lovebird teaches kids about giving consent and making decisions, in the picture book **Rissy No Kissies**, written by Katie Howes and illustrated by Jess Engle. Ages 2 to 8.

Mindful Moves: Kid-Friendly Yoga and Peaceful Activities for a Happy, Healthy You is a guide to breathing like a walrus and posing like a superhero, by Nicole Cardoza, with illustrations by Marta Antelo. Ages 5 to 7.

Aimee Bissonette is the author of **Headstrong Hallie: The Story of Hallie Morse Daggett, the First Female Fire Guard**, illustrated by David Hohn. Ages 5 to 8.

Be a Tree! by Maria Gianferrari, with illustrations by Felicita Sala, points out the similarities between people and trees. Ages 7 to 12.

Annotations by Voice bookworm
Karol Barske



Illustration by Andrea D'Aquino

RUTH ASAWA STORY TIME

On Sunday, May 9, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) in partnership with the San Francisco Public Library will hold a special "Second Sundays" story time for families at the virtual museum.

If you tune in at 11 a.m., you can hear Mr. JoSep reading the 2019 children's book **A Life Made by Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa**, written and illustrated by Andrea D'Aquino. Aimed at kids 5 to 8 years old, the book tells how Asawa, a longtime Noe Valley resident, became an artist by observing plants and animals around her. It also includes tips on making a paper dragonfly.

To get a copy, check it out at the library (sfpl.org), visit SFMOMA, or ask for it at our neighborhood bookstore Folio. To listen to the story, go to www.sfmoma.org/secondsundays. The book is published by Princeton Architectural Press.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Finding Your Way by Michael Blake

H	A	H	A	M	R	S	A	M	C	T	R	L
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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/,
http://www.action-sf.com/,
http://resistrypac.org
Email: ActionSFSolidarity@gmail.com or
ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
Meetings (virtual): First Sundays, 11-12:30 p.m. All welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940
Website: 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
Email: info@castropatrol.org

Castro Merchants

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

Diamond Heights Community Association

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

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

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

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.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110
The Fair Oaks garage sale is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day, this year on Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
Website: 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
Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG)

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

Glen Park Association

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

Juri Commoners

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

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

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

Noe Neighborhood Council

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe, Co-founders
Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Website: 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
Website: 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

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.NoEvalleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

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

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

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

Progress Noe Valley

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

Resilient Noe Valley

Contact: Antoinette
Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com
Newsletter signup:
http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5
Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org
New training classes to be scheduled soon. Please check the NERT website for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
Website: SlowSanchez.com

Upper Noe Neighbors

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

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com
All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.



More Library Services—Visit our Express In-person Library Services or Front-Door Pick-Up



on.sfpl.org/reopening

SFPL To Go	
MONDAY – FRIDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHINATOWN 1135 Powell Street ORTEGA 3223 Ortega Street VISITACION VALLEY 201 Leland Avenue 	
TUESDAY – SATURDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANZA 550 37th Avenue BAYVIEW 5075 Third Street EXCELSIOR 4400 Mission Street EUREKA VALLEY 1 José Sarria Court MARINA 1890 Chestnut Street MERCED 155 Winston Drive MISSION BAY 960 Fourth Street PARK 1833 Page Street PORTOLA 380 Bacon Street POTRERO 1616 20th Street WEST PORTAL 190 Lenox Way 	
MONDAY – SATURDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY	12 – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAIN LIBRARY 100 Larkin Street 	

Browse & Bounce, EXPRESS IN-PERSON SERVICES	
MONDAY – SATURDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY	12 – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAIN LIBRARY 100 Larkin Street (Opening May 3) 	
MONDAY – FRIDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHINATOWN 1135 Powell Street (Opening May 17) ORTEGA 3223 Ortega Street (Opening June 21) RICHMOND 351 9th Avenue (Opening June 21) VISITACION VALLEY 201 Leland Avenue (Opening June 21) 	
TUESDAY – SATURDAY	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EXCELSIOR 4400 Mission Street (Opening June 22) MISSION BAY 960 Fourth Street (Opening May 18) 	

SFPL To Go-Go	
TUE & THURS, 2 – 6 p.m.	WED, 2 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISSION Bookmobile John O'Connell High OMI Bookmobile Jose Ortega Elementary RICHMOND Bookmobile Roosevelt Middle School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TREASURE ISLAND Bookmobile Avenue H and 11th Street OMI Bookmobile Catholic Charities 50 Broad Street

Questions? Just ask! Call (415) 557-4400 for general assistance.



The Congo Treehouse

4 BED | 3.5 BATH | CALL FOR PRICE

The Congo Treehouse is a city oasis perched directly above Glen Canyon Park, a residence of incredible craftsmanship, built-in 2013. Sophistication, design, and nature layer together to create lofty perfection in a home that seamlessly blends form, flow, and relaxation. The modern floor plan delivers a sexy main level boasting a high end, custom kitchen and dining and living areas that flow to the view deck.



1240-1244 Jones

6 BED | 3 BATH | CALL FOR PRICE

Rarely available VACANT 3 flat building on Nob Hill's best block surrounded by luxury condos and coops, with three car garage. Flexible use - rentals, owner collection or go GRAND with preliminary plans from architect John Lum that were developed for the owner who wanted to transform this three-unit building into a Nob Hill Classic.

Noe Valley Stunner

3 BED | 1.5 BATH | \$1,499,000

Gorgeous, newly remodeled top floor residence nestled perfectly on the border of Noe Valley and the Mission's Valencia Street corridor - offering the best of both worlds and all these fabulous neighborhoods have to offer. This top floor, corner, condo residence recently went under a cosmetic refresh and features a new kitchen, refinished floors, newly painted and so much more.



Rachel Swann
415.225.7743
DRE 01860456

Rachel Hooper
415.420.4482
DRE 02081348

Marcus Grogans
415.572.0064
DRE 01993031

Mark Colwell
415.680.8490
DRE 01877310

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