



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Moving in the Sun: Early October saw a lively crowd packing the Town Square on 24th Street and rocking to a free dance class offered by Rhythm & Motion. You're welcome to join the next R&M dance pop-up at the square on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Photo by Art Bodner

Report Takes Stock of Housing In District 8

There's a Rising Need for Below-Market-Rate Homes

By Matthew S. Bajko

Faced with ongoing complaints about the high incidence of tenant evictions, the astronomical housing costs, and the lack of affordable units in the neighborhoods he represents, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman last spring commissioned a report to examine and find ways to address the interlocking concerns.

Using census and other data, the report looked at the housing issues confronting the Castro, Eureka Valley, Duboce Triangle, Noe Valley, Corbett Heights, Diamond Heights, Glen Park, and parts of the Mission Dolores and Twin Peaks neighborhoods. Simply titled "District 8 Housing Opportunities Report," it first noted how the land went from being home to the Costanoan and Ohlone tribes to being settled and developed by waves of successive immigrants.

"I had requested the report because my sense is that in District 8, the housing crisis is everywhere but is impacting District 8's neighborhoods in particular ways," said Mandelman. "One question we wanted to look at is, are there different strategies to deploy that are different from what works in other neighborhoods to get affordable housing built in District 8?"

Conducted by consulting firm Street

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Dizzying Exposition: In homage to a tradition born in the rubble of the Loma Prieta earthquake, the Midnight Rollers don their wheels on Friday nights to skate a circuit of San Francisco landmarks, including the Palace of Fine Arts.

Photo by Gabe Castro-Root

Return of the Midnight Rollers

Younger Generations Following 'Pied Piper of Skating' David Miles Jr.

By Charlotte Kane

With stunning gardens, fountains, and swans that glide across the glittering water, the Palace of Fine Arts is perhaps the most breathtaking spot in the city. You feel as if you've been whisked away in a time machine spinning through space back to 1915, as you gaze at the statues adorning the dome in the center of the reflecting pool.

On Friday nights, the skaters arrive. Then, with the sound of disco music and the roar of rollerblades on

concrete, the time machine leaps forward to 1969.

The first time I visited, I was struck by how the columns lit up after dark. As I stepped inside the rotunda and looked up, everything was cast in a warm yellow-orange glow. Couples walked through the paths holding hands, and friends leaned against the columns inside of the dome.

This night, a warm one in June during our second pandemic spring, I arrive with my own friend. Weary from a night of driving aimlessly through the city, we sit wondering what the other people around us are thinking. "Fade Into You" by Mazzy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

We're Getting Used to Living With Covid

The Latest on S.F.'s Health From Two Local Experts

By Liz Highleyman

Last November, San Francisco was at the beginning of what would become its biggest Covid surge, our public schools were still closed, and restaurants and bars along 24th Street had once again been shut down. Vaccines were not yet approved, and people were faced with conflicting advice about how to stay safe.

A year later, the city has weathered a midsummer rise in Delta variant infections, and rates of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have returned to relatively low levels. (On Oct. 26, there were 46 people hospitalized with Covid in San Francisco, and the death toll for the month was 14, according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health.)

What's more, 76 percent of city residents have been fully vaccinated, and vaccines for kids ages 5 to 11 will soon become available. But many people are still confused about what's risky and what's safe.

For an update on where we are now and where we might be headed, the *Noe Valley Voice* again turned to longtime Noe Valley resident Dr. Bob Wachter, chairman of the Department of Medicine at UCSF, and former neighborhood resident Dr. Monica Gandhi, director of the UCSF Center for AIDS

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Silvia Zeng

Pete Brannigan



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-Valerio, San Francisco, CA

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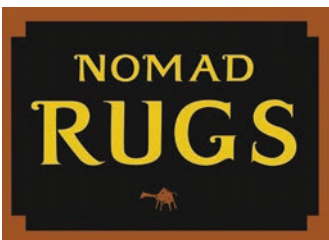
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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name and contact information, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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LETTERS 58¢

Attitudes About Israel Changing Editor:

I am pleased that my fellow Noe Valleyan David Bradlow took the time to read my letter and respond [September 2021 *Voice*, Letters, page 7]. Unfortunately, the arguments Mr. Bradlow makes are the same spurious ones uttered by Israel's defenders for generations.

First, he equates any criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. It isn't. In fact, if one believes in the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam*, which means being called to fix a broken world, then criticizing the behavior of the State of Israel so that the nation may do right, is a very devout Jewish act. It is what the ancient prophets from Amos to Zechariah were called to do. And it is the calling of such current organizations as Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now.

Second, Mr. Bradlow would like us to believe that Jewish claims to what is now Israel-Palestine superseded all others. But since our ancestors first came out of Africa, that corner of the Earth has been occupied by countless people, with the Jewish presence there waxing and waning for the last 3,000 years. But if Mr. Bradlow truly believes ancient claims to a territory are paramount, I suggest he hand over the keys to his house to descendants of the Ohlone people, who were here perhaps thousands of years before either of our ancestors made it to these shores.

Third, he argues that Israel and the Palestinians are equally to blame for the ongoing conflict. They are not, nor have they ever been.

Israel would like to be seen as a brave little David armed only with a slingshot. But in truth it is a bullying Goliath, an occupying power backed up militarily and politically by the world's greatest superpower. The Palestinians are an occupied and subjugated people with little meaningful political backing. The territories they supposedly control, such as Gaza, are little more than cages or Bantustans with little to no control over air space, water, electricity, and freedom of movement.

A famous American Jew once proclaimed, "The times they are a-changing." And, as another Noe Valleyan, Jeff Pekrul, pointed out, so are attitudes about Israel and our nation's relationship with the Jewish state.

I hope that my children come of age with a less chauvinistic form of Judaism than was expressed in Mr. Bradlow's letter, and as previously stated, that Israel comes to recognize the equality of all persons within its borders.

Bernie Corace
25th Street

Attack on Elder Should Be Reported Editor:

It has been reported on the Nextdoor social media site that an attack took place on an elderly Asian-American woman who was returning home from the Noe Valley Farmers Market. It was perpetrated Oct. 9 by someone described as possibly an "elementary aged child," who ran out of a garage near Castro and Jersey streets and chased the woman while yelling and waving a stick at her. She outran him.

The Nextdoor post said no police report had been filed, which I found disturbing at best and dangerous to the community at worst. The police need to be made aware of this attack, as do the people who live in Noe Valley. As a woman in my late 70s, I am becoming more and more hesitant about leaving my house! As a community, we need to take some public interest in things like this. If the perpetrator is allowed to get away with this action without being held in any way accountable, they may see that as a signal that this sort of behavior is not only socially acceptable but something that might be useful repeating. The fact that this was done by a young child is just so sad, and if the child is not somehow brought to an understanding of the gravity of what was done to this citizen, heaven only knows what they might do next.

Candace Forest
Diamond Street

Bike-a-Thon a Success!

Editor:

Thank you so much for including my bike-a-thon in your article about Friends of the Children! I'm pretty sure that an entire class from Children's Day School signed up because of your article, and I am incredibly grateful for that.

Thanks again,
Toby Hou

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Send an email to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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The pendulum keeps swinging... 2021 started out of the gate very strong. The 2020 presidential election was saved, the vaccine rolled out, and a collective sigh of relief was breathed. A buying frenzy started back up almost immediately. But then the Delta variant reared its ugly head over the summer. Companies put their back to the office plans on hold. Travel plans were cancelled. And a feeling of doubt and fear came back almost as quickly as it had dissipated. The typically strong fall market suffered. A feeling of buyer fatigue permeated October. The Delta variant looks like it has been beaten back, but confronting these pandemic ups and downs looks like it is the new normal. Interest rates have started to creep back up, and inflation seems like it may be more of a long term issue than just a fleeting problem. Both of which should be inspiring home buyers to make a move. How will the 2022 market respond? **As a top SF realtor for 15 years, Jessica is an expert at timing, strategy and preparing property for successful sales. If you are considering selling your home, make sure to interview Jessica, and let her intelligence, experience, and wisdom guide you! Her record of success speaks for itself. Call Jessica today at 415.341.7177 for a free, no strings estimate of your home's value.**

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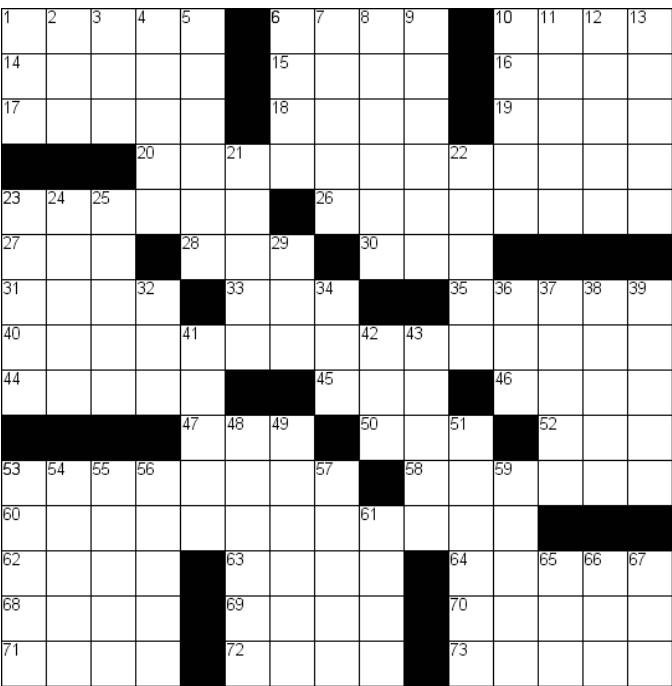
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Cheers!

ACROSS

1. “___ Johnny!”
6. “¿Qué ___?” (“Wassup?” in Huatulco)
10. Allows to ripen
14. Defeatist’s words
15. Bye lines?
16. Leslie Caron film (not *Gigi*, but that’s close)
17. \$1 million Noe Valley buy (if you’re lucky)
18. ___ et Chandon Champagne
19. Calc prerequisite
20. How smoking may be hazardous, per the Surgeon General
23. Actress Kidman
26. Christmas store-window feature at Noe Valley Bakery
27. Baseball-bat lumber
28. Longtime Noe Valley newsstand owner’s first name
30. Had a bite
31. *To Live and Die* ___: 1985 film
33. Commie, in ‘50s slang
35. Answer to “Who’s there?”
40. “Don’t think I’m not watching, youngster!”
44. Cook, as clams
45. Disgraced former Senator Leland
46. *Billy* ___ (Melville novel)
47. Clairvoyance, for short
50. *Brokeback Mountain* director Lee
52. NYC airport
53. Like Pixar films
58. What the 18th Street restaurant Yamo lacks
60. Symptom of rainy-day motorcycling without goggles?
62. Banana discard
63. Grp. once dominat-



- ed by Annika Sorenstam
64. Adhesive mixed right before use
68. *Dear* ___ *Hansen* (2021 film)
69. Tiger’s ex
70. Buying binge
71. 1996 candidate Bob
72. Already in the mail
73. Church Street eatery, or what you get when you combine 1-Across with 20-, 40- or 60-Across
DOWN
1. Sound from the bar at Mr. Digby’s?
2. *The Name of the Rose* author
3. Managed
4. Put an ___ (stop)
5. What the 18th Street restaurant Yamo has for seating
6. Tribe whose Lytton Band runs the San Pablo Casino
7. Roughly
8. Madre or Mist lead-in
9. “Well, wouldja look ___!”
10. Palo ___ (resident near Stanford)
11. Lassies
12. Cream of the crop
13. What a tourist comes to see?
21. Ache (for)
22. “Old MacDonald” refrain
23. Minna ___ (manipedi spa)
24. *This Film* ___ Yet Rated
25. Eponym for a Church Street restaurant
29. Actress Ryan
32. Abbr. before an alias
34. Street between 29th and 30th
36. Place for a bath
37. Crossbones’ partner
38. Moose’s girlfriend, in Archie comics
39. Icelandic epics
41. ‘To put it more clearly...’
42. Lovejoy’s specialty
43. *Fiddler on the Roof* matchmaker
48. Does a Green Twig Salon job
49. *Us Weekly* rival
51. With the most LGBTQ folks
53. Excited, slangily, with “up”
54. Año ___ State Park: place to see elephant seals
55. Absolutely perfect
56. Eeyore’s creator
57. Prepared for a long fight
59. Buca di ___: family-style restaurant
61. Rave’s partner
65. “... man ___ mouse?”
66. Marks a ballot
67. So far

Solution on Page 22

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Property Crimes Persistent

According to the San Francisco Police Department’s crime map, Noe Valley saw a decline in car thefts in September. There were “just” eight vehicles—five cars, two trucks, and a mobile home—stolen during the month, the only time this year that vehicle thefts have been in single digits.

However, other types of criminal activity seemed to pick up the slack, bringing the total number of incidents in the *Voice* survey to 96. Two-thirds of that number fell into the larceny/theft (41) or burglary (23) category.

In the larceny group, the data showed thieves broke into or stole items from 27 cars, both locked and unlocked. In six incidents, the license plate was what was taken.

Police described three of the 23 burglaries as “hot prowls,” occurring while residents were at home.

There also were two robberies in Noe Valley, one by physical force and one involving a gun.

We queried the data on Oct. 16, 2021, using the digital “Map of San Francisco

Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org). The map draws the borders of Noe Valley as 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, 30th Street, and Diamond Heights Boulevard.

This month, we also re-checked the incidence or lack thereof of rape and homicide in Noe Valley over the past 33 months. The data showed there were no homicides recorded in 2019 and 2020, and none so far this year. During that same period, there were three reported rapes, two in 2020 and one in 2021.


As police captains Nicole Jones (Ingleside Station) and Rachel Moran (Mission Station) stressed at the public safety forum in the Noe Valley Town Square on Oct. 10, the number to call if you see a crime in progress is still **911**. “The police will respond.” In non-emergency situations, call 415-553-0123. “For concerns about unhoused people,” they said, call 311.

You can also file incident reports online at <https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/get-service/police-reports/file-police-report>. ■

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports January – September 2021									
Incident Reports 2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
Larceny/Theft	33	27	29	24	36	26	63	42	41
Burglary	36	54	17	11	16	38	23	14	23
Malicious Mischief	13	13	11	5	7	8	10	7	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	12	15	12	23	11	18	14	8
Assault	4	4	2	1	4	3	6	6	4
Robbery	1	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	2
Other Miscellaneous	8	8	3	7	6	5	5	6	8
Fraud	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	1	3
Family Domestic Violence	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	2
Vandalism	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	2
TOTALS	117	121	82	64	100	99	130	93	96

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783>. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications and updates are completed. September data were gathered by the *Noe Valley Voice* Oct. 16, 2021.



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- Live in California

To learn about California WIC Program, visit www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov or call 1-888-942-9675

To enroll in SFPDH WIC Program visit, www.sfdph.org/wic to start your application or call 628-217-6890 to make an appointment.

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Housing Report Advises City to Buy Small Buildings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Level Advisors, with assistance from the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development, the 40-page report highlighted how the 75,055 residents of District 8 as of 2018 are being “impacted by the current housing crisis, both directly and indirectly, with significant risk of displacement and housing insecurity.” It also noted that District 8 has a higher homeownership rate than the city overall (42.5% to 37.6%), with a correspondingly lower rate of renters (57.5% to 62.4%).

The report determined that approximately 53 percent of District 8 residential units are rent-controlled, greater than the 37 percent of all such units citywide. Another 2,247 housing units in District 8 are subsidized, income-targeted units affordable to low- or moderate-income households, it noted, representing close to 6 percent of all housing units in the district. (That was less than the 9 percent share of such units citywide.)

Below the Threshold

According to the report, 1,465 new housing units have been built in the last 10 years in District 8, representing 5.2 percent of the total new units citywide, but only 306 of those were built as affordable. Of the 527 new units approved to be built in District 8 in the coming years, only 146 are to be affordably priced, noted the report, which at 28 percent is below the city’s 30 percent threshold for affordable housing among all new housing units.

The report identified 64 sites with likely housing development potential across the district, allowing for about 3,196 new units of housing based on current zoning. Of those, it estimated that 623 would be below-market-rate units.

The document went into some detail discussing various options for addressing the situation, from turning parking lots owned by religious groups into housing, to finding other in-fill opportunities for building less expensive homes in the district. Another idea it suggested was to better utilize programs aimed at having the city or non-profit groups acquire smaller buildings with 5 to 25 units, to preserve them as affordable housing.

“As costs per unit for new larger-scale rental buildings continue to increase, a homeownership development program at a modest scale could offer a cost-effective means to build affordable housing, particularly in areas like District 8,” stated the report.

Few Vacant Lots

Mandelman told the *Voice* that one issue the report highlighted was the lack of a nonprofit housing developer that was solely focused on his district, like the ones working in Chinatown, the Tenderloin, the Mission, and South of Market.

“What the reasons are for that I am not sure,” he said. “I do think it is a problem.”

In terms of Noe Valley specifically, Mandelman said the report confirmed what has long been a problem, the lack of large undeveloped lots that could be redeveloped with a sizeable housing project of 50-plus units. Even though a 2019 voter-approved bond measure that Mandelman backed directed \$600 million for affordable housing to supervi-



View From Goldmine Hill: More clouds may roll in and more renters feel under pressure if Noe Valley and other neighborhoods in District 8 fail to increase the supply of low- and moderate-income housing.
Photo by Sally Smith

sorial districts like his that had seen high numbers of evictions but a paucity of new below-market-rate units, there weren’t many opportunities to build such projects in District 8.

“I think we need to find more of those sites that are good for tax-credit-funded projects,” he said. “Undeveloped lots are the sweet spots for significant affordable housing projects.”

Developing Without Diversity

Released in June, the report has generated little notice, and until now has gone unreported. The *Voice* reached out to several neighborhood residents involved in housing issues for their reaction, only to learn they had yet to read the report or were unaware of its publication.

Ozzie Rohm, a co-founder of the Noe Neighborhood Council, said a main takeaway for her after reading the housing report was the relative lack of residents with middle to low incomes living in Noe Valley and the district’s other neighborhoods. (In 2018, more than 36 percent of District 8 households were making more than \$200,000 a year. Only 15 percent had incomes less than \$50,000.)

“We have become the Pacific Heights of the south,” said Rohm, referring to the city’s wealthy northern neighborhood. “In terms of the level of income disparity and in terms of the level of diversity, it has become even more of an issue. It is really alarming.”

The report also made clear that few of the new housing units being constructed in Noe Valley were “affordable by design,” those that were small apartments with two or fewer bedrooms or

accessory dwelling units in the back yard of a property or in a converted garage space. Such housing would be naturally less expensive to rent or own than a five-bedroom single-family-home, for example.

“It is just another indication most of the homes being constructed here, whether new or replacements of more modest homes, are not built having that affordable-by-design mindset,” said Rohm. “These modest older homes are replaced not with new additional units. They are replaced as one to one, except they are moving from a modest home to a more luxury [house]. That is an alarming trend for our district.”

She said the city should consider requiring developers to include affordable housing units in projects they build in Noe Valley rather than allowing them to opt for paying an in-lieu fee. By paying a certain amount to the city to finance the construction of affordable housing units in other locations, developers have been able to avoid building them on their own property.

All That Glitters...

Such is the case with a controversial market-rate housing project proposed for the hillside at the intersection of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Diamond Street. Developer On Diamond LLC is seeking approval to build 24 new luxury homes and intends to pay close to \$3 million to the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development so it doesn’t have to set aside some as affordable housing.

Nearby residents are opposing the plans, arguing the entire project should be designated affordable. A hearing

before the planning commission has been delayed for months, with the latest scheduled for Dec. 2.

The in-fill project is representative of the difficulties that can arise with housing developments, not only in District 8 but all over in the city. Competing interests often collide over design issues and the inclusion or omission of on-site affordable units.

“Maybe we should stop developers’ ability of feeling out,” Rohm said. “When it comes to market-rate housing, San Francisco has done phenomenal. When it comes to below-market-rate, we are doing piss poor.”

Ironically, the cover page for the District 8 housing report uses a photo of the Noe Valley Town Square to represent the neighborhood. In the early 2010s, some housing advocates had pushed the city to purchase the former gas station site turned parking lot on 24th Street to build housing there, but others called for it to be preserved as public open space. The latter won out.

One argument made in favor of turning it into a park site was it couldn’t support much housing, thus it didn’t make financial sense for the city to build. Should a similar opportunity arise today, however, attitudes might be different.

Rohm echoed the consensus of the pro-housing voices by noting that having even a handful of affordable units built in Noe Valley would be better than none at all.

“There are sites the government could acquire, like some of these one-story stores along commercial strips that become available,” she said. “The city could build affordable housing there. Granted, you would not have 70 units there, but every little bit helps.”

Raise the Heights

Todd David, one of the main proponents for creating the Town Square who is now executive director of the Housing Action Coalition, backs building more housing along merchant corridors in the district and across the city. Doing so not only would address the housing needs, argued David, it would also bring in more residents who would then patronize Noe Valley’s merchants.

“Noe Valley should be doing its part in welcoming more neighbors to our urban village. We are fortunate, as our neighborhood is rich in open-space, parks, and transit. It is the ideal neighborhood to welcome more housing,” David said. “To that end, height limits should be raised on our commercial and transit corridors of 24th Street and Church Street to allow six-story apartment buildings. And four-plexes should be allowed on every residential lot that is currently zoned for a single-family home or a duplex.

“By changing the zoning and allowing more apartments on 24th and Church streets as well as smaller homes via four-plex, rents would stabilize and we would create more first time homeownership opportunities,” he added. “Adding more housing in Noe Valley is a win for the neighborhood, our local merchants, the city, and new neighbors who want to live here.” ■

To read the housing report or download a copy, visit https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/District8_Affordable_Housing_Report_2021_FINAL.pdf

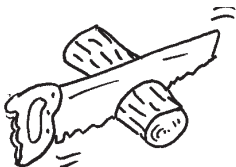


Illustration by Karol Barske



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Behind the Scenes at 30th Street

On Lok Senior Center Coming to Life

By Kit Cameron

The On Lok 30th Street Senior Center is beginning to crack open its doors as it emerges from the Covid-caused shutdown. It has been a long year and a half for the 6,000 seniors who, before the pandemic, regularly met for sociable meals, worked in the computer lab, took a banquet of classes from art to zumba, and volunteered in the center’s tree-filled rear garden.

For the past 20 months, the center has been physically closed to visitors, but its pivot early on to virtual classes, expanded meal delivery, and regular check-ins via phone has meant that at least 2,000 seniors are still very much connected.

It is the personal contacts, says On Lok spokesperson Helen Huckleberry, that have kept the spirit of the center flourishing. She adds that some seniors who miss the volunteering have written appreciative notes to staff.

In the absence of the volunteer-staffed computer center, the center quickly partnered with the Community Tech Network. Its staff got busy helping 19 of On Lok’s Spanish-speaking seniors graduate from its Home Connect Program. The seniors received remote tutoring sessions over a period of weeks, along with wi-fi-enabled tablets and assistance in signing up for broadband service.

The center’s hot lunch program, for which people voluntarily make a contribution, has become a meal-to-go opera-

tion. Meanwhile, homebound seniors have been getting meals delivered through the On Lok Mission Nutrition program. Thanksgiving dinner will be a takeout frozen meal, but will include a bonus Friday meal as well.

For information about picking up takeout meals or having meals delivered, contact On Lok Mission Nutrition at 415-550-2226.

A variety of exercise and healthy living classes also will be continuing online into November. The virtual Always Active exercise class is Monday through Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. (in Spanish and English on Tuesday and Thursday). A Fall Prevention class is Monday and Thursday, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Those interested should contact Luz Villanueva at LVillanueva@onlok.org or at 415-550-2265 to register. Anyone over 60 is welcome and can register separately for different classes.

As the expansive garden in the back of the center is gradually opened, volunteers will be welcomed once again, Huckleberry says. Michelle Lopez at 415-550-2205 is the person to contact if you would like to get your hands dirty in the garden.

On Lok 30th Street Senior Center was started in 1979, when a group of seniors asked to use a space in the building at 225 30th St. for a social club. Classes are funded in part by the city’s Department of Disability and Aging Services.

You can find more information about On Lok 30th Street Senior Center at onlok.org or by calling 415-550-2210. The center is also home to the On Lok PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) program, which helps seniors age safely in their own homes. ■

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Doctors Say S.F. Is Inching Closer to Post-Pandemic Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Research, both of whom have become social media stars during the pandemic.

San Francisco “looks reasonably good,” says Wachter, who has a reputation for being cautious. “We’re in this sort of middle ground where it’s coming down, things are better, but we’re not out of the woods.”

Wachter, 64, is especially proud of Noe Valley. “I’m always impressed as I walk around that people are acting as responsibly as they have been for the past 18 months,” he says. “In many other parts of the country, people have prematurely declared victory.”

Gandhi, known for being more optimistic, says San Francisco is doing “extremely well.”

“When the Delta surge hit, we were already so much better off than many places,” she told the *Voice*. “We’re even getting to a point where health officers are discussing off-ramps. I don’t think we’ll have another surge after this because of how much immunity we have from prior infection and our great vaccination efforts.”

What’s Safe to Do Now

Wachter’s nearly 200,000 Twitter followers eagerly await updates about his own risk assessment. In April, as cases fell, he resumed his monthly indoor poker game with a small group of vaccinated friends.

As Delta took hold in August, he stopped indoor dining and the poker game was off. In October—after he received his booster shot—travel, indoor dining, and the poker game were back on the agenda.

“It’s a trade-off. It feels right to begin doing a little more, but it’s possible this will lead to an uptick in cases and we’ll have to pull it back again,” Wachter told the *Voice*. “If I want to have dinner with a friend and it’s the kind of day when you really need to be inside, I would do it. But if the weather is nice and there’s an outdoor table, I’d still prefer that,” he says.

As for outdoor activities, he says, “I went to a Giants game a couple of weeks ago and that felt fine. I wore a mask when I went to get a hot dog, but not sitting outside in my seat. Outdoors in a place that’s checking vaccine status feels very safe.”

Gandhi, 52, who currently lives in the Excelsior District, has been comfortable with indoor dining since Aug. 20, when the city mandated that people show proof of vaccination to enter bars, restaurants, gyms, and health facilities.

“I really don’t think that fully vaccinated settings are spreading infection,” she says. “The mandate has not only increased our vaccine uptake, but it has been profoundly important for people to feel safe.”

She’s also comfortable gathering indoors with vaccinated adult family members and friends, even if unvaccinated children are present. And she’s not worried about outdoor activities. “Ever since I really evaluated the data, I haven’t been concerned about outdoor transmission,” she told the *Voice*.

Boosters and Masks

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recommended boosters for Pfizer or Moderna vaccine recipients who are over 65, have underlying health conditions, or are at high risk for exposure due to their work or living situation. Anyone who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine can get a booster two months after their first shot.

But it remains unclear how long immunity from vaccination or prior infection will last. “I don’t think there’s any way of knowing until time gives us the answer, but I think we have to be prepared for a yearly booster,” Wachter says.

Gandhi doesn’t think we’ll need annual boosters. “All of the vaccines are producing really strong cellular immune memory,” she says. “Natural immunity is also good, but it’s more variable given the severity of your initial infection.” Although the coronavirus doesn’t mutate as rapidly as influenza, the only way to stop the emergence of new variants is “to work harder on global vaccine equity and tamp down transmission worldwide,” she says.

Another big issue is how long we’ll need to keep wearing masks. On Oct. 15, San Francisco relaxed its indoor mask mandate for offices, gyms, and other settings with a stable cohort of fully vaccinated people. Masks are still officially required indoors in restaurants and bars when people are not actively eating or drinking.

San Francisco and eight other Bay Area counties plan to lift mask mandates across the board when transmission remains at a moderate level for at



A specialist in the care of patients with HIV and AIDS and a proponent of “harm reduction,” Dr. Monica Gandhi has been a frequent guest on PBS and CNN. Photo by Joe Watabe

least three weeks, hospitalization is low and stable, and either 80 percent of the total population is vaccinated or eight weeks have passed since vaccines were authorized for the 5 to 11 age group. But under a state rule kids are still required to wear masks at school.

In for the Long Haul

All of these conditions could be met within the next few weeks in San Francisco, but that doesn’t mean everyone will throw away their masks. An informal survey of about 100 people on 24th Street on a recent weekday found that 40 percent were still wearing masks outdoors, even though the outdoor mask mandate had been lifted back in May.

“You can quibble about whether they’re too stringent, but I personally feel the Bay Area health directors have been right in calibrating their responses,” Wachter says. “Everybody is sick of this, but I don’t feel that in the Bay Area there’s massive pressure to get back to normal today. And there’s no question our policies have saved thousands of lives.”

Gandhi is a bit more impatient. “I approve of the [city] recommendation that in fully vaccinated settings, you don’t need to mask indoors. That’s really important for the recovery of our city,” she says. “But it makes very little sense not to extend that to restaurants and bars. It’s one of those absurd moments when you walk in with a mask, show your vaccine card, sit down at a table and take off your mask—that likely doesn’t do anything to change transmission.”

On the other hand, she thinks the Bay Area county consortium’s metrics

are reasonable. “We’re so close to child vaccination, and it’s profoundly important to do everything we can to keep children in school,” she says. But once kids have had the opportunity to get vaccinated, she thinks the state should relax the requirement for kids to wear masks at school.

A New Normal

Wachter describes the current situation as a “new normal,” and he’s starting to make choices that will feel safe over the long term. “If [I decide] I’m not going to do it now, I’m probably saying that I’m not going to do it for the next couple of years, and I might be saying I’m not doing it forever,” he recently wrote on Twitter.

“I’m increasingly of the mind that we’re going to be living with this virus for a long time, maybe forever,” he told the *Voice*. “That’s going to be essentially a steady state, because we will not reach a level of immunity that’s high enough to make it go away—that may be impossible even if everyone got vaccinated.” Plus, immunity appears to wane over time. “It’s like painting the Golden Gate Bridge,” he says. “As soon as you’re in good shape, you have to start all over again.”

Again, Gandhi is more hopeful. “I really think in highly vaccinated regions like San Francisco, we will be back to normal in the winter,” she says. “The difference from last year, when we were just starting to roll out vaccines, is like night and day.” ■

Editor’s Note: On Oct. 29, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized Covid vaccines for children 5 to 11.



While sharing advice with his 200,000 followers on Twitter or YouTube, Dr. Bob Wachter is often in consultation with his favorite canine companion, Newman. Photo by Christopher Michel



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Renaissance of Roller-Skating at Night and in Golden Gate Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Star plays hazily in the background. Then all of a sudden, a roller-skater with neon-green glowing blades whizzes in through the eastern opening. He is followed by more and more skaters, and finally at the end there is a woman pushing a large speaker decorated with glow sticks and blasting music. Each skater—bursting with energy, wearing a crazy fun costume, and covered in lights—twirls and glides on the smooth surface at the center of the Palace.

I look around at the other bystanders. Like me, they can only stare in awe. As the skaters dance, I think to myself, *My life is nowhere near as interesting as these people's.*

The skaters begin doing tricks and stunts, leaping over groups of brave volunteers lying down on the pavement. I cringe as a girl repeatedly jumps backward over four of them. I exhale in relief as she lands gracefully on the other side.

These are the Midnight Rollers, part of a long and fascinating history of roller-skating that is tethered to the Summer of Love and would not be complete without the Godfather of Skate, Pied Piper of Skating, and Mayor of Golden Gate Park: David Miles Jr.

12 Miles With David Miles

In the late 1960s and the decade following, skating boomed in San Francisco. With the invention of the polyurethane wheel, the boom box, disco music, and movies like *Roller Boogie* and *Xanadu* emphasizing the freedom of skating outdoors, tens of thousands of eager people laced up their skates and took to the streets. The vibe was funky, accepting, and electrifying.

“I didn’t really consider myself a real roller-skater until I came to Golden Gate Park in 1979,” Miles said while telling me his story last April. “It was a life-changing experience.” After discovering the Sunday closure of JFK Drive from a handful of passing skaters, he returned to the park three days later. “And when I went out there, it was fantastic. It was just the greatest scene you can imagine. All these people roller-skating. Thousands of people. This amazing sight. And I’ve been hooked ever since that very day.”

After 10 years of skating throughout the city, Miles became the head of the Skate Patrol, a group formed to protect skating in the park.

“Back then, the city did not know how to respond to the thousands of people coming out. The Skate Patrol was a group of volunteer skaters trained in first aid and CPR to help people,” Miles said. The group succeeded in keeping roller-skating from being banned (park neighbors had complained about crowds and food vendors) and continued to meet to tackle other skating issues.

Friday Night Skate

The Midnight Rollers started shaking up the nighttime skating scene in San Francisco when the earth was shaking up the streets as well. In 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake damaged the Embarcadero Freeway, closing it to all traffic. After their Skate Patrol meet-



David Miles Jr. demonstrates one of his signature moves, known as “The Coffin.” He was part of a boom in skating in the 1970s and ’80s. 1987 photo courtesy David Miles Jr.

ings, Miles and other skaters would take to the shuttered road.

“We were only 12 or 15 of us at that time,” said Miles. “We saw a sign saying, ‘Do not enter,’ and of course we entered, and skated on top of the Embarcadero Freeway, and it was magic, your own personal roadway around Disneyland. That started the Friday Night Skate.”

The skaters established a 12-mile route through the city and took their party on the road when the sun went down, at 8:30 or 9 p.m. Once the Embarcadero Freeway was demolished in 1991, the skaters just kept going and growing, until their Friday night outings drew nearly 800 skaters. The route was a circuit running from the Ferry Building to Fisherman’s Wharf and the Palace of Fine Arts, then back along Broadway, Stockton, and Market to the Embarcadero again.

“A group of people from Paris came, and they were totally fascinated with it. They went back to Paris and they started doing the Friday Night Skate,” Miles said. “They had up to 35,000 people on their Friday night skate. They called it Friday Night Fever.”

The Discovery Channel flew Miles and his family to Europe to participate. “We skated with 13,000 people down the Champs Élysées. It was magic,” Miles recalls. “The skate night grew to other cities, Amsterdam, England, South Africa, everywhere. To this day, it still goes on all around the world. And it all started with that earthquake.”

Disco Boogie

In San Francisco, there are many heart-racing and theatrical moves to see as the skaters weave through the low-lit streets of the city. Miles recounted some of his favorites, beginning with a turn at a stoplight on Union Street. One of the skaters will take a microphone and begin a countdown. “And then everybody joins in, including the neighbors from their windows above, who are dancing as we come by,” he said. “And once we go, we blaze down the streets like we are on a motorcycle and we’re heading for the Broadway Tunnel.” All the while, “Danger Zone” from *Top Gun* is the soundtrack to an adrenaline-pumping ride straight out of a thriller movie.

In the Cupid Shuffle at Union Square, bystanders are invited to join

the party on wheels. “It’s like, everything is nice and quiet, and all of a sudden all the skaters arrive in this big party. And, you know 10 minutes later, they’re gone and it’s quiet again. You can’t be in one place for very long,” said Miles.

Early on, Miles and the Skate Patrol developed a system to reign in the chaos, manage intersections, and keep everyone happy. Onlookers typically were a bit shocked at the sight of hundreds of skaters rushing through the streets, he said. “But then they see us smiling and dancing and want to be a part of it.”

Much of what the skaters do is technically illegal—skating at night, in the street. “We do all sorts of crazy things. We skate backwards down California Street just for fun,” said the Godfather.

So to keep out of trouble, the skaters came up with a list of rules: stay on the right side of the road, don’t block traffic, yield to pedestrians, and, above all, respect local residents. “They are the ones to call the police on us,” Miles said.

The Church of 8 Wheels

All along, the skaters wanted a place where they could skate indoors. But building a roller rink was an expense nobody could afford. Then, in 2013, Miles got word of a church that had been sitting empty for years on Fillmore Street. He called up the property owner and asked if he could throw a party in the space. The man agreed, “and when he looked and he saw kids and families skating, music playing, lights, he thought it was a really cool thing.”

The property owner then agreed to let Miles do the event once a week, and

the Church of 8 Wheels has been a skating refuge ever since. “I tell people I’m the luckiest person who has never won a lottery. Because look what I get to do! Who gets to do this?!” Miles said. Everyone in Miles’ family is involved, his wife at the door, his kids renting out skates and playing the music.

Skating, Miles says, “is the love of my life, except for Rose, my wife. I met my wife skating in the park 42 years ago. We’re still rolling. She’s the glue that keeps my crazy world together.”

He’s seen skating embraced by the city. “The minds of the people are open to the point where you can introduce the unusual, what is different. Everybody around the country might not get into it, but in San Francisco, the weird and strange are normal, not in a bad way, but in a great way. You feel you can be exactly who you are.”

Sunday in the Park

The Sunday closure of JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park to cars goes all the way back to 1967. But Miles stays alert to any changes in what he knows is everybody’s favorite green oasis.

Now that the pandemic has brought a flood of daytime visitors to the park, with hundreds biking, walking, running, and skating on the thruway, he and other advocates are renewing their campaign for a permanent ban on cars in the park. “If Covid had not happened, we would not have had this experience, and would not have had as many people understand how important it is to close the streets to car traffic,” Miles said.

He pleaded his case in a piece in the *San Francisco Examiner* in March. “With the cars gone,” he wrote, “kids can play, families can explore, ride their bikes together, skate together, walk together, and use the park for what it was always meant to be used for.”

Though they no longer number in the thousands, the Midnight Rollers are still skating on Friday nights. And a new generation of people with eight wheels strapped to their feet is having a groovy time in the park, on Sixth Avenue, JFK, and beyond. The skating soul of the city isn’t dead. It’s alive and thriving.

“Everybody looking for that magic in San Francisco, come on out to the park,” Miles says. “The magic still exists.” ■

Voice contributor Charlotte Kane is a Noe Valley resident and a senior at Lick-Wilmerding High School. Her story on skating first appeared in The Paper Tiger, a student newspaper.

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Action-SF.com - Fall Kick Off Meetings Nov. 7, Dec. 5.

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Sounds of Music

Live Concerts Returning to Local Venues

By Richard May

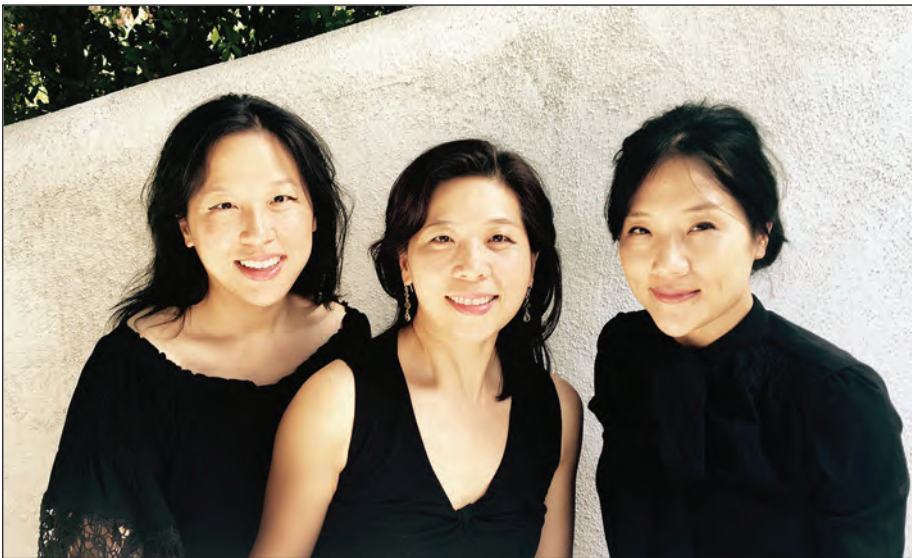
Prior to the pandemic, Noe Valley had a vibrant live music scene at numerous venues throughout the neighborhood. Then, for almost two years, there’s been next to nothing. But this month, concerts makes a comeback. Our main stage was the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., a church on Sunday mornings but the rest of the week a location for yoga, martial arts, exercise classes, daycare, and—now, once again—music, with three events in November.

The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco, a string quartet co-founded by Cleo Tilton of nearby Bernal Heights, will play “Notes From St. Petersburg,” at the Ministry on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. The program includes Romantic Russian masterworks by Anton Arensky, Grazyna Bacewicz, and Alexander Borodin. CMS will become a quintet for the evening, with the addition of Canadian

guest cellist Hannah Addario-Berry. Says CMS violinist Natasha Makhijani, “It is exhilarating to be returning to the thrill of live performing. We have always found connection [with the audience] extraordinary, but now more than ever it is magical. There’s nothing like the immediacy of live music.” Event tickets are \$25 general admission. For more information, see <https://chambermusicsocietysf.org>. Next up at the Ministry is the Noe Music classical series. Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10:30 a.m., the piano duo of Timo Andres and David Kaplan will play a 45-minute Kids Concert at the church. On Sunday, Nov. 14, at 4 p.m., Andres and Kaplan will give a concert for grownups, featuring two pieces commissioned by impresario Serge Diaghilev of the famed Ballet Russe: *Symphonic Dances* by **Sergei Rachmaninoff** and *The Rite of Spring* by **Igor Stravinsky**.

Andres and Kaplan met while students at the Yale School of Music and formed a performance duo, which is now transcontinental. Andres lives in Brooklyn and, when not touring, teaches at the Mannes School of Music in Manhattan. Kaplan lives in Los Angeles and is an assistant professor of music at UCLA.

Tickets for both concerts are available at www.noemusic.org. Kids also might want to mark their calendars for the third November music event at the Ministry, the popular “Nutcracker Sweet.” The 20-year-old, 36-member San Francisco Chamber Orchestra will team up with the Puppet Company from Oakland’s Fairyland theme park for a free 45-minute family concert Saturday, Nov. 27, at 2 p.m. The East Bay puppets will dance to excerpts from Pytor Tchaikovsky’s



The Lee Trio, composed of Lisa Lee on violin, Angela Lee on cello, and pianist Melinda Lee Masur, will perform Nov. 7 at Music on the Hill at St. Aidan’s in Diamond Heights. Photo courtesy St. Aidan’s

beloved Christmas ballet, *The Nutcracker Suite*. Anyone for a puppet *pas de deux*? Meanwhile, the string sextet Probabilities will play decidedly non-classical music at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street on Sunday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. The group’s repertoire includes original compositions and traditional rural **American and Quebec Canadian tunes**, such as “Buckskin Reel” by Metis fiddler Andy de Jarlis, “La Moquine” by Claude Methe, and “Last Plane to Taipei” by group member Jim Geselbracht. Led by Noe Valley resident Kerry Parker, Probabilities is made up of two fiddles, a cello, banjo, guitar, and mandolin. Parker says, “We’re honored to be invited to be part of the Town Square’s visions for the neighborhood and community.” Dancing will not only be allowed but encouraged. The concert is free. However, donations are gladly accepted.

Also on Nov. 7, but a little later in the day, at 7:30 p.m., the Music on the Hill series at St. Aidan’s Church in Diamond Heights welcomes the Lee Trio, comprised of three San Francisco sisters. Their program will include pieces by **Ludwig van Beethoven, Robert Schumann**, and American composer and conductor **Joan Tower**. The Lees have been performing together since their London debut in 2002. They have held recitals and appeared with orchestras around the world and won several performance prizes, including the Kuhmo International Chamber Music Competition. Lisa, Angela, and Melinda play violin, cello, and piano, respectively. Tickets for Nov. 7 are \$20 and available on Eventbrite. St. Aidan’s is at 101 Goldmine Drive. At all events be sure to wear a mask and have your Covid vaccination card handy. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write *Noe Valley Voice* Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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TEEN
TALK

The Kids Are Okay

By Astrid Utting

On Oct. 17, a rather chilly Sunday afternoon, the streets of San Francisco were alive for Phoenix Day. So was my block! San Franciscans took to the streets to commemorate the Loma Prieta Earthquake and celebrate the resilience of San Francisco. It was a day of community, and Duncan Street was lucky to be part of it.

Despite the threat of rain, people flocked to the streets, kids and dogs in hand. I stepped out my front door half an hour late, thanks to a morning of virtual SAT boot camp. I was greeted by the sight of a towering bouncy house and the sounds of jazz music. Adults had been lured to our block by the live music, and kids by the vision of the giant red, yellow, and blue bouncy whatever-it-was.

People chatted while munching on chocolate chip cookies and feasting on lumpia and garlic noodles (thanks to our neighbor who brings the best food!). The pupusas another neighbor brings each year were a hit too. The tin tray of warm flatbread-like masa with beans and zucchini disappeared quickly.

Not to brag, but our block party had not one but three live music performances! Alabama Jama, a family bluegrass band, played songs like John Prine’s “Angel From Montgomery.” With the dad on guitar, mom and twin



The big draw on Phoenix Day was a bouncy house, or rather a castle, on Duncan Street.

singing, another twin casually strumming her banjo, and a friend playing the violin, the band was the epitome of community and family fun. Student musicians from the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts high school played Latin jazz, and Gil Guillermo played an assortment of music from around the world.

The block party was also not short of animals. We had two senior dogs from Muttville, waiting to be adopted. The soft and scruffy yorkies, known as Barnes and Noble, are always happy for attention and are still available, just saying.... We even had a visit from a gentle brown horse named Cooper!

The main attraction was the two-part bouncy system. Lugged all the way from Dianne Feinstein Elementary, it consisted of a giant slide connected to a

bouncy, unroofed obstacle course. I sat at the top of the slide, helping the little ones up and down and reminding kids not to use each other as rungs to get up the slide (I’m not kidding!).

From my vantage point I could see adults milling around with cans of sparkling water and glasses of wine, and kids racing to complete the second part of the bouncy castle, the flat obstacle course. After more than a year of being cooped up, I loved getting to laugh with the little kids and yell “wheeeeeee!” as I zipped down the slide with a 3-year-old on my lap. I even landed a new babysitting client!

Everyone walked around wearing name tags to get to know each other. Our District 8 supervisor, Rafael Mandelman, and his legislative aide Tom Temprano stopped by to chat, then

biked on to the next block party on their route. State Senator Scott Wiener also paid a visit!

The party wouldn’t have been possible without everyone’s team effort. It came together because everybody chipped in, whether it was setting up the bouncy house, bringing food or drinks, playing music, or just bringing themselves. By the end, people were already eagerly planning next year’s block party. Who knows, maybe next time we’ll have a theme, or cute tablecloths, or a crafts table.

What made the day fun wasn’t just the bouncy house or the cookies. It was the excitement of celebrating actually being around people! I loved meeting my new neighbors and playing with little kids. Next time I see a neighbor heading to school, work, or just walking their dog, I can wave hello. I not only felt a sense of community and excitement, but also resilience.

My mom said she saw two older women getting a little teary as they watched the high school students playing music. One of the women said gratefully, “The kids are okay.”

And we are okay. I know I will be okay because I am lucky enough to grow up with block parties like this one, surrounded by this wonderful community. All I can say is, I can’t wait for next year! ■

Astrid Utting, 16, 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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The Cost of Living in Noe

Homes Selling Fast

By Corrie M. Anders

September was a lively month for real estate in Noe Valley, with residential shoppers purchasing 17 single-family detached homes.

That was three more than in August and six more than in September a year ago, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

A dozen condominiums also changed hands, two more than in the same month in 2020.

Corcoran President Randall Kostick described the real estate activity as “brisk,” noting that buyers were eager to wheel and deal.

Although he did not have numbers on specific properties, Kostick said homes continued to attract multiple offers, resulting in significant overbids.

The data showed buyers paid an average 12 percent more than the sellers’ asking price for detached homes. Compare that to just 1 percent more in September last year.



The plain façade of this four-bedroom home on 26th Street belies its many attractions, including a yard with a slide and a rock-climbing wall. The house sold for \$4 million in September.



A four-bedroom condominium on Cesar Chavez Street, with 2,695 square feet of living space, sold in September for \$3 million—15.6 percent more than its asking price. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

In addition, people were quick to make offers, often without contingencies. From the time a property hit the market, buyers took just 17 days on average to sign a final contract.

A dearth of \$6- to \$7-million-dollar homes kept the average sale price for a Noe Valley house under \$3 million for the second consecutive month (\$2,946,918). In September a year ago, the average price was \$3,155,847, about \$200,000 higher.

But the luxury home category was not without its standouts.

A four-bedroom, three-bath residence with 2,765 square feet of living space and a price tag of \$3,295,000—in the 4300 block of 26th Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets—sold for \$4,010,000, a hefty 21.7 percent over asking. The deal was signed and sealed in only 15 days.

Originally built in 1955, the house had been renovated to feature a sky-lit great room leading to an enclosed outdoor deck, a chef’s kitchen with Viking and Bosch appliances, a master suite with a private deck and hot tub, a terraced garden with a 20-foot stainless-steel slide, a rock climbing wall, an EV-charging station, and sweeping views of

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
September 2021	17	\$1,220,000	\$4,010,000	\$2,946,918	17	112%
August 2021	14	\$1,845,000	\$4,150,000	\$2,756,000	26	113%
September 2020	11	\$2,000,000	\$6,520,000	\$3,155,847	16	101%
Condominiums/TICs						
September 2021	12	\$1,100,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,815,000	18	113%
August 2021	12	\$700,000	\$2,810,000	\$1,678,750	17	109%
September 2020	10	\$799,000	\$1,860,000	\$1,500,800	27	105%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
September 2021	3	\$1,600,000	\$2,107,500	\$1,902,500	18	110%
August 2021	4	\$1,585,750	\$2,150,000	\$1,940,188	56	97%
September 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—
5+-unit buildings						
September 2020	1	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000	309	96%
August 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 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. NVV 11/2021

San Francisco and the East Bay.

Not quite as expensive but still drawing crowds was a 3,300-square-foot Victorian with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths in the 600 block of 28th Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets.

The home’s updated interior featured marble countertops, an eat-in kitchen, a gas fireplace, media room, two walk-out decks, a one-car garage, and panoramic views.

With an asking price of \$3,695,000, the property was bid up 8.3 percent to an even \$4 million. It was on the market for all of four days.

The September condominium derby was just as competitive. Buyers typically paid 13 percent more than the sell-

ers’ asking price to get their favored unit.

The month’s most expensive condo was a four-bedroom, four-bath residence with 2,690 square feet in the 3700 block of Cesar Chavez Street, between Dolores and Guerrero streets. The unit sold for \$3 million—15.6 percent above its sticker price (\$2,595,000).

The two-level property was packed with design features, including a kitchen with designer cabinetry and quartz countertops; Bertazzoni, Liebherr, and Bosch appliances; radiant heat; and one-car parking. There also was a sliding glass wall leading to a private deeded garden and patio. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range October 2021	Average October 2021	Average September 2021	Average October 2020
Studio	17	\$1,600 - \$2,595	\$2,061 / mo.	\$2,086 / mo.	\$2,104 / mo.
1-bdrm	38	\$1,990 - \$4,200	\$2,726 / mo.	\$2,588 / mo.	\$2,717 / mo.
2-bdrm	33	\$2,540 - \$6,125	\$3,921 / mo.	\$3,668 / mo.	\$3,739 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$3,800 - \$7,500	\$5,365 / mo.	\$5,689 / mo.	\$6,006 / mo.
4+-bdrm	10	\$3,790 - \$21,000	\$10,887 / mo.	\$9,912 / mo.	\$7,208 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 113 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Oct. 4–10, 2021. In October 2020, there were 283 listings. NVV 11/2021



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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Upper Noe was back in full swing in time for gorgeous October weather.

Photo by Chris Faust

Upper Noe Rec Ready to Play

Activity at Upper Noe Rec Center is increasing daily. Winter Session registration will begin Dec. 18 and bring an even fuller schedule. Pilates, Boot Camp, and Argentine Tango return. The retirement of instructor Chris Sequeira means that the very popular Qigong classes will probably not return, but Feldenkrais classes will provide similar exercise.

The children's playground enjoys tremendous use and is starting to show it. Park personnel closely monitor the equipment for safety, but the last renovation was in 2008. The triple slide recently succumbed to age and a replacement is in process. Friends of UNRC is looking to fund some additional purchases to bring everything back to 100 percent.

Assistant facilities director Alvin Torres was recently promoted and is moving on to a new position after many years of dedicated and friendly service at Upper Noe. Congratulations, Alvin. We will miss you.

Note that everyone must wear a mask at all times while indoors and while in proximity to children. ID and proof of vaccination are required for anyone 12 and over.

Check www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the Upper Noe office 415 970-8061 for more information and updates.

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

Upper Noe Rec Fall Session (through Nov. 20, 2021)

Upper Noe Rec Center hours:	Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Weekdays 10 to 11:30 a.m.	Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Pickleball	Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Drop-in (all ages).
Volleyball – Girls in Sports – Beg.	Wed. 4–5 p.m.	(7–9 yr olds)
Flag Football League, Pee-Wee Div.	Wed. 3:30–4:30 p.m.	(8–10 yr olds)
Flag Football League, Senior Div.	Wed. 4:30–5:30 p.m.	(11–13 yr olds)
Drop-in Volleyball	Wed. & Fri., 5:30–7:30 p.m.	Adult, Advanced ONLY
Shred & Butter skateboarding	Fri. 3:45–5:15 p.m.	(6–13 yr olds)
Zumba (family)	Sat. 9:30–10:30 a.m.	FREE but registration is required. Space is limited. No drop-ins.

For safety, Open Gym now has separate youth and adult sessions:

Tuesday:	2–5 p.m. (Youth); 5:30–7:30 p.m. (Adult)
Wednesday:	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Adult)
Thursday:	2–5 p.m. (Youth); 5:30–7:30 p.m. (Adult)
Friday:	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Adult); 2–5 p.m. (Youth)
Saturday:	10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (All Ages)



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SHORT TAKES

Noe Valley Has Soul

Still wary of going to a movie theater, especially with the kids? Good news! Movie Nights have returned to the Noe Valley Town Square.

The inaugural offering of this restart is Disney and Pixar’s animated film *Soul*. This 2020 family comedy is about jazz and a Black musician (and middle school teacher) who winds up in the Great Before, where souls go to get their next life. Only, Joe, the teacher-musician, wants his old life back.

The characters are voiced by the likes of Jamie Foxx (Joe), Tina Fey, Angela Bassett, and even Irish comedian Graham Norton! There’s plenty of music composed and played by renowned jazz artists, including Jon Batiste, Trent Reznor, and Atticus Ross (from the band Nine Inch Nails).

Take your low-back lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinners (or popcorn) to the square, 3861 24th St., on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 5:30 p.m. The movie lasts an hour and 40 minutes.



Screening at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20, at Movie Night at the Town Square, 3961 24th St., is the animated film *Soul*.

Where We’re Going

Rafael Mandelman will speak at the Nov. 15 meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, held 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the back patio of the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St. Just in time for happy hour.

On the agenda are what the supervisor foresees as San Francisco’s future and the policies needed to get us there. Mandelman will also look back on the history of the newly rejuvenated Democratic organization and how it influenced his personal political progression. He is a past president of the club.

You don’t have to be a member or even a Democrat to attend.

For more information, go to www.noevalleydemocrats.org.

A Fun Day for Odd Mondays

In 2001, writers Ramon Sender and Judith Levy-Sender of 23rd Street started the Odd Mondays readings and speaker series, to foster community in Noe Valley. This month, the series is celebrating its 20th anniversary with some special guests.

Festivities, which will be held virtually, will include readings by New Orleans author Maurice Carlos Ruffin (*The Ones Who Don’t Say They Love You*); San Francisco poet Jenny Qi (*Focal Point*); and Virginia novelist Alison Wellford (*Indolence*, published



Odd Mondays founders Ramon Sender and Judith Levy-Sender will help celebrate the series’ 20th anniversary at a Zoom event Nov. 15. 2015 photo by Beverly Tharp

by Bernal Heights’ Outpost 19).

Following the readings, founders Ramon and Judy will appear in conversation with Odd Mondays moderator Richard May, who took over from the couple in 2018. The pair will share memorable moments from their 17 years at the lectern, and read a bit of their own work. The series had its humble beginnings at the Noe Valley Ministry (and often met in Haystack or Noe Valley Pizza for supper beforehand). Later it moved to Folio Books.

Join the event via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com for the link. Meanwhile, the books are available at Folio, 3957 24th St., or at www.foliosf.com/odd-mondays.

Watch Out for Falling Gelt!

Our neighborhood celebration of Chanukah takes place on Sunday, Dec. 5, the last of the eight nights of the Jewish Festival of Lights. Chabad Noe Valley is planning a big party from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Town Square on 24th Street.

The event is “open to the entire community! All are welcome!” per Rabbi Gedalia Potash of Chabad Noe Valley—and he should know.

The big finish, lighting the menorah for the last time, is set for 5 p.m. But before that, you can nosh on gelt and donuts (fried foods are *de rigueur* for Chanukah), listen to live music played by the Chabad community, ooh and aah over the magic show, MYOM (make your own menorah) and sand art, and watch out for the gelt drop—little parachuting bags of gold foil-wrapped chocolates.

Menorah lighting the first seven nights of Chanukah will also be at 5 p.m., except for Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., because of the sabbath.

500 Pairs of Socks

Bethany United Methodist on Sanchez Street has been fixing sack lunches for unhoused people for six years. Every second Sunday since 2015, volunteers have assembled 100 sack lunches for the San Francisco Night Ministry, which feeds people living on the streets. During 2021, they upped the ante. Once a quarter, they produce 500 lunches and safety kits (clean socks, mask, and hand sanitizer) for the Night Ministry and two other nonprofits: Urban Alchemy (which helps the homeless in the Tenderloin), and Mother Brown and her work in the Bayview.

Says Bethany Pastor Sadie Stone, “This is not a long-term solution, but it is a way to show the unhoused we care.”

On Sunday, Nov. 14, you can help fill the next 500 sacks by donating clean white socks, peanut butter, jelly,

bread, bottled water or juices, soft fruits, pre-packed desserts, or chips. Come to the main entrance at 1270 Sanchez St. between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. To volunteer to help assemble or deliver lunches and safety kits, email bethanysoffice@gmail.com or call 415-647-8393.

Give and Ye Shall Receive

Folio Books is celebrating its eighth birthday with a 20 percent discount on items Nov. 4 through 6. While you’re in the store, make a donation to one or all of three charities and Folio Books will give you a store mug, enamel pin, or sticker. The charities are the Book Industry Charitable Foundation, which gives grants to bookstore and comic bookstore employees; the California Fire Foundation, a supporter of fallen firefighters and their families; and the World Central Kitchen, which cooks meals for disaster victims.

November also is the kickoff for Folio’s annual Giving Tree project. Pick a “leaf” off the tree and buy a book for the child whose age and reading interest are on the paper. San Francisco’s Children’s Book Project will distribute the books.

Finally—whew!—Folio is matching donations made by local author Charlie Jane Anders to the Trans Lifeline, a support hotline, and the Carl Brandon Society, which aims to increase racial and ethnic diversity in speculative (science) fiction. Anders, a winner of the 2019 Locus Award for Best SF Novel, will donate a dollar for every copy sold of their new short-story collection *Even Greater Mistakes*.

Folio Books is located at 3957 24th St. For store hours and book recommendations, go to www.foliosf.com.



Author Charlie Jane Anders and Folio Books hope you’ll join them in donating to the Trans Lifeline and the Carl Brandon Society in one of several fundraisers at the store Nov. 4 to 6. Photo by Sarah Deragon

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

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Read All Over

Regular readers of *The Noe Valley Voice* can often be spotted far from our fair neighborhood. They like to travel and when they do, a copy of their hometown newspaper in their carry-on makes a great companion.

Where are you going next? Bring us along and take a photo, then email us with a brief description and we'll show the world.

editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Don't show us a masked face though. Thanks.

At left we find puzzle master **Michael Blake** and **Barbara Howald** braving the “badlands” outside Rapid City, South Dakota.

Now that this section of Icelandic lava has cooled somewhat, writer **Liz Highleyman** and photographer **Jan Brittonson** could venture nearby. The Fagradalsfjall volcano near Reykjavik was still active when they visited in July of this year



Buck Melton (left) and **Ron Stenger** found themselves far from home on Eureka Street and in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in front of the summer home of Joe and Jill Biden.

STORE TREK

MOONSHOT STUDIO

4066 24th Street near Castro Street
415-720-6142

www.moonshotstudiosf.com

A sea of scents is waiting to be explored at the new Moonshot Studio, located at 4066 24th St., in the former home of children's clothing store Small Frys (it has moved one block down the street). Here customers can make or buy soy wax candles and other products to provide unique aromas for their homes, offices, or businesses.

Owner Teresa Fitzgerald opened her doors Sept. 24 in a 1,500-square-foot retail space that had been given a complete makeover following an earthquake retrofit of the building.

With walls painted white and an aquamarine floor hinting at the nearby waters of the Bay and the Pacific Ocean, the interior offers a calming atmosphere so customers can focus on their olfaction as they choose scents to be mixed on-site by the store's staff. The store recommends people pick from one to three individual scents for the products they make themselves at the marble countertop, which can provide seating for up to 16 people.

Fitzgerald chose the term *moonshot* for the business, she says, because of its aspirational connotation and reference to President John F. Kennedy's lunar-landing ambitions. She combined it with *studio* to signal the creativity of the fragrance-blending process.

"I am a baseball fan, and it means a home run," she explains, adding, "For me, it is a personal moonshot. This is a huge change in my career."

In 2019, Fitzgerald retired after working for nearly 14 years at Genentech, where she started as director of clinical business management and later became director of legal business management. Her husband, David Wofsy, also retired in 2020 after serving as the associate dean of admissions at UCSF School of Medicine.

The couple live in Twin Peaks and have a 13-year-old daughter. They had planned to turn their attention to volunteering and other activities during their retirement. But then the Covid-19 pandemic hit, reducing their ability to do much more than drop off groceries for the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank.

Inspired by a store she had visited in the Midwest that offered scent-blending, Fitzgerald began thinking about opening her own such business. The concept of personalizing products like candles and body sprays seemed a good fit for Noe Valley, since it was an activity suitable to people of all ages. "Yes, good things come out of the Midwest," says Fitzgerald, who has lived in numerous cities across the U.S. and has called San Francisco home for the past 14 years. "One of the big draws is the social component, as it is fun to do with people."

With public health officials mandating that people wear masks in indoor settings like retail stores to stem the tide of the virus, Fitzgerald acknowledges it may seem counterintuitive to launch a business based on customers using their noses. Yet, as cases of Covid steadily drop in the city and vaccinations for children age 5 to 11 become available, there is a growing demand for people to socialize again, she notes. "Obviously, it is a terrible time to open during Covid, especially with people losing their sense of smell and wearing masks. At the same time, people's exuberance is growing for gathering together and doing social activities again, so it felt



Owner Teresa Fitzgerald (center) invites Tracy Coleman (left) and Ann Nyham to test favorites among the 80 scents Moonshot Studio offers for making unique candles, body mists, and room aromas.

Photo by Art Bodner

like it was a good fit for this as well."

The 80 scent samples contained in gold tins that customers sniff as they decide on their aroma blends are pungent enough to be easily smelled through a mask. Each one handled is thoroughly cleaned before being returned to the shelving that lines most of the store's right-side wall.

The choices run the gamut from fruity, such as strawberry jam, and floral, like lilac, to woody, for example bamboo or mahogany, and spicy, like wasabi. Seasonal scents will be on offer for the holiday season, including gingerbread, mistletoe, candy cane, Christmas tree, and Santa's pipe, which has a hint of cherry.

In exploring the scent wall, says Fitzgerald, people can discover their preferences and experience smells that may be entirely new to their olfactory senses.

"It is a fun learning process," she says. "And when you go home and use these products, that scent very much is tied to the memory of making it."

The aroma-blending process can take anywhere from 24 to 40 minutes, and the entire length of time to finish making a candle takes 90 minutes. Other items take less time to make, like fragrance oils (\$22) and room or body mists (\$18).

The candles (\$30 for a single scent; \$32 for up to three scents combined) have a burn time of 55 hours. The store also sells wax tarts (\$16), basically a cube of wax that goes into an electric wax melter to slowly release its aroma without the need for a flame.

Fitzgerald notes the devices (\$18 for a nightlight version; \$26 for ones with a timer) are a safer option for parents with small children at home or business owners who want to add handcrafted scents to their workspaces. Another option is to use reed diffusers (\$34), sticks with hollow cores grouped into a glass jar and submerged into scented liquid that emits a subtler aroma in a room.

"There are a lot of ways to scent a space," she says.

A selection of different-colored glass jars comes with the purchase of each candle. You can also buy ceramic vessels made by local artist Farnaz Devitt (\$48 to \$56). Also for sale are pre-made candles in gold tins (\$18 for two; \$32 for four) that can be lit individually or burned together to provide various aroma combos. Throughout the store are hand-painted furniture pieces, such as a

vanity and a bookshelf, by local artisan Sarah Bashford (\$495 to \$895).

During the holiday shopping season, gift baskets filled with premade items will be for sale. Unlike other retailers who may be experiencing shipping delays and depleted store shelves, Fitzgerald will have a variety of items for people to choose from.

"We have an advantage because we have stock on hand," says Fitzgerald, "so you can walk out with most of our products. Everyone loves a candle."

Walk-ins are welcome for groups of

four people or fewer who wish to make their own products, while parties of five or more should call ahead to reserve a time. Once the city eases its mask mandate, Fitzgerald plans to market a backroom space that can accommodate up to 16 people for private events such as bachelorette or birthday parties.

Moonshot Studio is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday). On Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m. The store is closed Mondays.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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Days Grow Short: The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **December 2021** issue, distributed the first week of December. The deadline is **Nov. 15**. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley take priority. Thank you.

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Valley of the Pumpkins

By Mazook

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT invaded Noe Valley last month, when Halloween decorations and what seemed to be thousands of pumpkins appeared on the front steps of neighborhood homes and businesses. For sure, One Stop Party Shop’s window, at the corner of Church and 28th streets, was my favorite window-shopper-stopper in the neighborhood this year.

Owner Mardie Vandervort says, “This is, by far, one of the busiest years we have ever had in the 34 years we have been here, and these days I’m spending long hours at the store,” from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. on Halloween weekend. She says the top sellers were “Michael Meyers characters, as well as those in *Star Wars* and *Day of the Dead*, along with the traditional pirate and witch costumes.”

And the display of pirates at the residence on 24th near Diamond Street was in full mechanization, as it has been for many years. This wonderful display can be glimpsed in a video I made last year that showed one of the pirates sailing his ship indoors (to lift our spirits during the pandemic). Try it, you’ll like it: [youtube.com/watch?v=lgZ2uFWkzSM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgZ2uFWkzSM). It’s called “Happy Halloween from Noe Valley.”



HAVE A HAPPY ARMISTICE DAY: This year’s Armistice Day is very special because we have finally withdrawn all our military forces from Afghanistan. We first occupied the country in 2002. President Biden is finally fulfilling a promise made by his predecessor, President Barack Obama, and *his* predecessor President George W. Bush. All our Doughboys have finally come home.

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

Probably Noe Valley’s most distinguished WWI soldier was Joseph “Frenchy” LeCours (1900-1984). He was at the wheel of history when, as a bilingual master sergeant in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), he drove French Field Marshals Henri Pétain and Ferdinand Foch and American General John J. “Blackjack” Pershing to Compiègne to sign the aforementioned armistice with the Axis powers.

You may want to check out Frenchy’s story in the Rumors in the November 2019 (or 1985) issue of the *Voice* at [NoValleyVoice.com](https://www.NoValleyVoice.com) or [archive.org](https://www.archive.org).



READY, SET, SHOP: Downtown Noe Valley is getting ready to roll out the turkeys for Thanksgiving, and Hanukkah and Christmas are hot on its heels. It seems at this point that the annual 24 Holidays on 24th Street is

still up in the air for 2021. Hopefully, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the Noe Valley Town Square, and the Noe Valley Association will come up with a plan at their early November meeting.

Meanwhile, a Noe Valley shopping destination, Just for Fun (3982 24th), will continue this year its traditional array of holiday splendor, according to its new owner, Michelle O’Connor.

“We are decorating the store with lots of ornaments, and the previous owners, David and Robert, are coming back to help us during this Christmas,” O’Connor says.

She also promises to have many “socially distanced outdoor Christmas events this year.” Gift wrapping will continue, she says, as well as the printing of cards and stationery. “Our business is doing very well and the neighborhood has been very supportive.”

O’Connor moved here (26th and Noe) with her family from London three years ago. She fell in love with the neighborhood and started looking for a retail business on 24th Street. “I have two small children, so we were very lucky to learn that Just for Fun was being sold because the owners were retiring.” She was an accountant in the UK and also had a real estate business in London. “I was quite surprised how much more expensive it is here than back in London.”

As we reported in September, two retail favorites, Wink SF and When Modern Was, have taken over the spaces vacated in September by Rabat on the corner of 24th and Noe.

“Business has really picked up since we moved down here,” says WMW owner Dona Taylor, “and I’m very happy that Wink is next door, and so are they. They told me their sales have jumped since they moved in.”

Filling the former WMW space at 4037 24th St. will be a pop-up called Stroller Spa, specializing in baby gear.



ART ABOUND: The pop-up art gallery we reported on last month at 3903 24th St., at Sanchez, has been extended, at least through Nov. 14. And the two local artists who are renting the space, painter Jaime Lovejoy and ceramicist Erin Hupp, have now been joined by textile/text artist Sheng Lor and ceramicist and painter Tasha Colby. The gallery has been open since September.

Lovejoy told the *Voice* mid-October that “visitors and passersby love seeing more art in the neighborhood and engaging with the actual artists themselves. They are able to hear about our process and collaboration, see how we created the work, and understand the story behind it....”

“Coming out of isolation,” she added, “people are craving this connection and excited to see local artists share their work.”

Lovejoy noted that Lor, who lives on 20th Street, tried in her art to “activate



Splash! Paintings and ceramic art by four local artists, such as this 36 x 48” work called *Sempervirens* by Jaime Lovejoy, are filling up the once-empty storefront at 3903 24th St., and giving the neighborhood some needed bounce. Visit by Nov. 14.



Carrie Elise Barnes of the Noe Valley Democratic Club (left) and Ingleside and Mission police captains Nicole Jones and Rachel Moran (right) listen to D.A. Chesa Boudin defend his office’s rate of prosecutions, at a forum on public safety at the Town Square Oct. 10. A crowd of 100 attended the event. If you missed it, you can see the video on YouTube.

Photo by Art Bodner

women’s voices and explore Asian diasporic memory from an environmental justice perspective” and Colby was particularly drawn to American history. She also pointed out that Colby is the artist who is creating the new mural for Chloe’s parklet on Church Street.

In other pop-up news, Flexa, the pop-up Danish children’s furniture store that opened mid-June on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg, is now popping down and will close its doors on Nov. 30. The owner of the outlet, Caroline Jensen, says they have been looking for another space in our valley but so far has struck out.

Popping up instead in Flexa’s spot, 3848 24th St., will be a home furnishings, pottery, and plant store, called Urban Scout. Owner Santiago Esparza, who has lived in Noe Valley for the past 10 years, says the business will pop open its doors soon after Dec. 1. He’s stocking the space with inventory for Christmas and then planning to close in January, to build it out. He “popped up” about four years ago across the street at Stephen Moore’s home furnishings store (3845 24th) and says he was “delighted” when he learned the space would become available.

“We will be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Sunday from 11 to 4,” Esparza says, “and will feature houseplants, pottery, and ceramics, with homeware and furniture accessories [and] Japanese housewares, as well as men’s and women’s lifestyle items.”



TAKE THE “J” TRAIN: As *Voice* readers know, a grassroots movement called “Restore the J,” which was started by local resident Kathy Setian in August, is picking up riders. “We have several dozen neighbors who have joined our workgroup and now have hundreds of people who have joined in signing our petition,” Setian says. The petition asks the SFMTA “to restore the J-Church to its route through the Market Street subway tunnel instead of forcing riders to transfer at Church and Market to other trains going downtown.”

Setian argues “the MTA is controlled only by the speed and efficiency of its routes rather than the safety and convenience of our neighborhood’s J streetcar riders.” You can jump on her wagon by signing the petition at [RestoreJ.org](https://www.RestoreJ.org).

Speaking of grassroots, more than a hundred people showed up at the Noe Valley Democratic Club’s public safety forum at the Noe Valley Town Square on Oct. 10. It featured San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin and SFPD station captains Nicole Jones

(Ingleside) and Rachel Moran (Mission). It was moderated by the club’s president, Carrie Elise Barnes. The forum lasted over 90 minutes and the panel answered questions from Barnes and the audience, which mostly focused on property crimes like house burglaries and car break-ins and thefts. Jones and Moran were very informative and articulate, as was Boudin.

For those of you who missed it, the NVDC posted the entire forum on YouTube. It’s viewable at “Crime & Public Safety Forum with DA Chesa Boudin and SFPD” and very worthy of your time.



THE SLOW LANE: Several hundred neighbors showed up for the Phoenix Day block party on Sanchez Street Sunday, Oct. 17. Very popular with the kids was the watercolor painting area, which according to Andrew Casteel, accommodated more than 200 little artists. The succulent planting tables were sponsored by Succulence, a plant store in Bernal Heights (403 Cortland) that specializes in plant education and has been offering plant workshops since 2013. Also popular was a table where kids could concoct “potions” of fragrances, and hear a storytelling by “Majamundi.” The S.F. Fire Department deployed a hook and ladder to the block where kids watched in awe as a firefighter went up to the top of Bethany Church.

And now the Slow Sanchez group has launched its next project: “Friends of Slow Sanchez was inspired by Inga Bard [founder of Art for Civic Discourse] and the team at Paint the Void. We are taking a similar approach to nurture art along Sanchez Street between 23rd and 30th streets. We are also collecting donations to support our arts and landscaping projects. We are asking our Sanchez Street neighbors to consider making a garage or wall available for a local artist to beautify.”

The notice went on: “You can pick a local SF artist from this gallery whose work appeals to you and get a price quote from that artist [most of them are on Instagram]. Let us know how much you are willing to spend and we will fundraise for the rest. If you want a fun/fast way to participate, you can contact Jeremy Novy to paint a koi fish or other design on your sidewalk. Let’s turn Slow Sanchez into a celebration of San Francisco art and community!” Go to [SlowSanchez.com](https://www.SlowSanchez.com) to find out more.



THAT’S 30 for this month. Don’t forget to pause and remember our fallen veterans, and have a very happy Thanksgiving, this year on Nov. 25. Be safe. Be well. Ciao for now. ■

Children’s Fiction

Little frogs come up with reasons not to go to bed, in *The Froggies Do NOT Want to Sleep*, by author-artist Adam Gustavson. Ages 3 to 6.

A young boy grows a garden in *Oscar’s Tower of Flowers*, a picture book by Lauren Tobia. Ages 3 to 6.

In the picture book *The Longest Storm*, by Dan Yaccarino, a family faces challenges during quarantine. Ages 3 to 7.

A girl takes action against ocean pollution in *No More Plastic*, written and illustrated by Alma Fullerton. Ages 5 to 8.

A stargazing girl finds the best place for viewing the cosmos in *Ada and the Galaxies*, written by Alan Lightman and Olga Pastuchiv, with illustrations by Susanna Chapman. Ages 6 to 10.

An 11-year-old boy’s life is disrupted when his grandmother moves in, in *Danny Chung Sums It Up*, written by Maisie Chan and illustrated by Natelle Quek. Ages 8 to 12.

Egg Marks the Spot is volume two in the “Skunk and Badger” series by Amy Timberlake, with illustrations by Jon Klassen. Ages 8 to 12.

A boy in India faces dangerous challenges when his mother is imprisoned for a crime she didn’t commit, in *Born Behind Bars* by Padma Venkatraman. Ages 8 to 12.

In *Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone, the captain of a softball team learns to overcome her worries and focus on the game. Ages 8 to 13.

Children’s Nonfiction

Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race was written by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli and illustrated by Isabel Roxas. Ages 2 to 6.

Interesting facts about caterpillars, mosquitos, and bees populate *The Bug Club*, written by Elise Gravel, illustrated by Adolphe Millot. Ages 5 to 8.

We Love Pizza: Everything You Want to Know About Your Number One Food is a picture book by Elenia Beretta, edited by Little Gestalten. Ages 7 to 11.

Isabel Thomas categorizes and describes the specifics of *One Million Insects*, illustrated by Lou Baker-Smith. Ages 8 to 11.

In *Girls Who Build: Inspiring Curiosity and Confidence to Make Anything Possible*, author and carpenter Katie Hughes encourages girls to learn to use tools. Ages 8 to 14 years.

Maker Comics: Survive in the Outdoors! written by Mike Lawrence and illustrated by Molly Johnson, offers step-by-step instructions for campers. Ages 9 to 13.

Children’s eBooks, Fiction and Nonfiction

An animal orchestra performs in *ROARchestra! A Wild Story of Musical Words*,

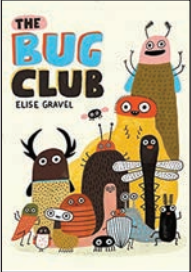
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Cheers! by Michael Blake

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MORE BOOKS TO READ


The Library Is Reading Our Minds



We’re sure you’ll want to check out the titles that Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr are unveiling this month at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library. There’s the children’s book about a girl who works to save the ocean from plastic, a movie tracking the Appalachian origins of the mythical Bigfoot, and two, count ’em, two guides to the feelings (and feelers) of insects.

Whatever your picks, you can place them on hold at the San Francisco Public Library’s website (sfpl.org) and arrange for pickup at Noe Valley or other branches around town. If you need help, call the Noe Valley Branch directly at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org. Better yet, visit the Noe Valley Library, at 451 Jersey St. (between Castro and Diamond). The local landmark is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Remember to bring your mask. The City and Country of San Francisco has mandated that *library visitors and staff must wear face coverings*, regardless of vaccination status.



—Sally Smith

written by Robert Heidbreder and illustrated by Dušan Petričić. Ages 3 to 7.

In *Shhh! The Baby’s Asleep*, written by JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated by Elissambura, a big noisy family tries to be quiet. Ages 3 to 7.

Athena: Goddess of Wisdom and War, written by Imogen Greenberg, illustrated by Isabel Greenberg, is part of the “Tales of Great Goddesses” series. Ages 8 to 12.

After her family flees Burma for Bangladesh, a Rohingya girl learns to surf, in the novel in verse *Samira Surfs*, written by Rukhsanna Guidroz, with illustrations by Fahmida Azim. Ages 9 to 14.

Adult Fiction

Sarah Rooney, of *Normal People* fame, explores the lives of two friends and their male companions, in *Beautiful World, Where Are You*.

In *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki, a 13-year-old boy seeks refuge from the voices he hears in his head.

Three generations of women in Toronto attempt to live on their own terms, in *Fight Night* by Miriam Towes.

Lean Fall Stand by Jon McGregor tells the story of an Antarctic expedition gone wrong.



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Book Now!

After his mother is stricken with ALS, a young man shoulders the responsibility of caring for her, as well as confronting his estranged father, in *War for Gloria* by Atticus Lish.

Adult eBook Fiction

Laurent Binet’s *Civilizations* is a counterfactual history of the modern world, in which the Incas capture Christopher Columbus and steal his ships to sail to, and conquer, Europe.

In *More Than I Love My Life* by David Grossman, three generations of women travel to a barren island off the coast of Croatia, where the eldest was held as a prisoner in the 1950s.

Adult Nonfiction

Lessons From the Edge is a memoir by Marie Yovanovitch, who was recalled as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine after a smear campaign by Trump’s personal attorneys.

In *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City*, Andrea Elliot follows eight years in the life of a girl living in a Brooklyn homeless shelter.

Michael Tubbs describes his rise from poverty to a job as the first Black mayor of Stockton, Calif., in *The Deeper the Roots: A Memoir of Hope and Home*.

In *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*, Mark Oppenheimer details the aftereffects of the 2018 tragedy in Pennsylvania.

Edward Glaeser and David Cutler take on the urban perils of crime and Covid in *Survival of the City: Living and Thriving in an Age of Isolation*.

Adult eBook Nonfiction

Sleeper Agent by Ann Hagedorn tells the true story of an undetected Soviet spy working on the atom bomb project during World War II.

John Tresch’s biography *The Reason for the Darkness of the Night: Edgar Allan Poe and the Forging of American Science* focuses on the writer’s engineering background.

Adult DVDs

A reporter searches for the elusive creature in the “paranormal comedy” *Fifteen Things You Didn’t Know About Bigfoot* (2021).

Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron star in the 1951 musical *An American in Paris*.

British Noir III is a collection of five suspenseful films from the 1950s and 1960s.

A violinist finds love in an Irish coastal village in the 2021 film *Finding You*.

In Lin-Manuel Miranda’s 2021 musical *In the Heights*, a New York bodega owner dreams of a better life.

—Annotations by Noe Valley Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS*					
Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library* 451 Jersey St., 355-5707					
Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	
Mission Branch Library* 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800 Closed for renovation					
Glen Park Branch Library* 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858					
Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	
Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library* 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616					
Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	
*For updates, go to sfpl.org.					

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

Websites: <http://www.action-sf.com/> or <https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/> or <http://resistrypac.org>
Email: ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com
Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m. Virtual meeting. All welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940
Website: al-anonsf.org
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.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

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 Kervin
Email: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

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

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 classes will be commencing soon. Visit the SF NERT website for more information.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez

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

Upper Noe Merchants

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
<https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/>

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.

Teaching the Next Generation

Wonder how San Francisco became the greenest big city in America?¹ Just ask the employee owners of Recology. We built our recycling system from the ground up, helping San Francisco become the first city in the country to have a universal recycling and composting program for residents and businesses. Now, we're teaching the next generation what it's all about.

"Let's keep making a difference. Together."



1 Siemens U.S. and Canada Green City Index

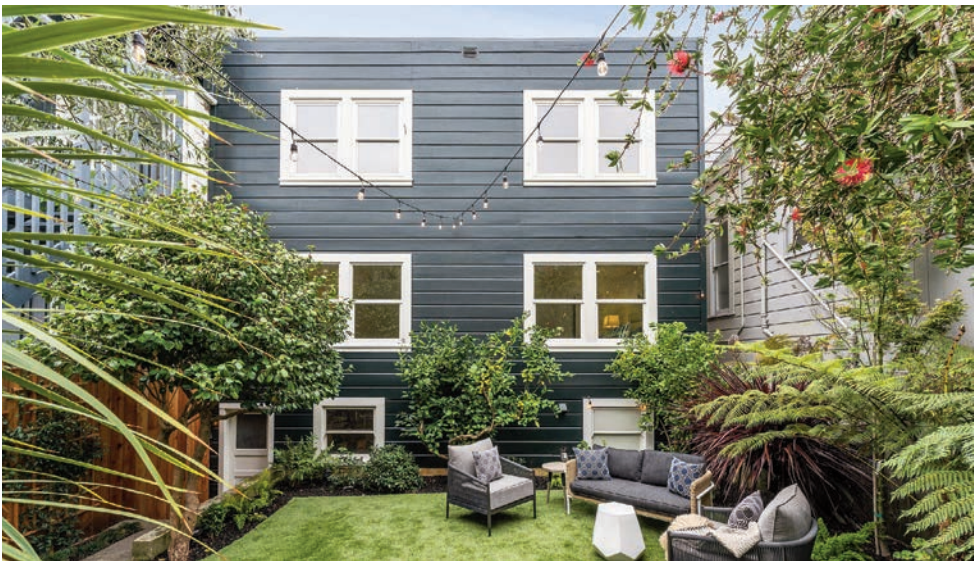


Exquisitely Reimagined Two Unit Residence

Nestled on tree lined Sanchez Street, just a few doors down from Noe Valley's coveted 24th street corridor, this stunning 2-unit residence was exquisitely reimagined into two modern and beautifully appointed homes. A masterful mix of period details blends perfectly with opulent finishes. The residences boast luxurious, marble clad bathrooms and newly renovated, designer kitchens, Miele appliances and cozy dining areas that flow to generous living rooms with large view windows.

The homes are recently painted and have refinished floors, tons of light, great floor plans and washer/dryer in-unit. Other amenities include a generous, charming, South-facing landscaped garden with fountain, deep garage, and large storage rooms. Offered as TICs or as a two unit building.

- HIGHLIGHTS OF
1139-1141 SANCHEZ STREET
- *TWO SUPERB RESIDENCES
 - *BUILDING OFFERED AT \$2,995,000 AND INDIVIDUALLY OFFERED AT \$1,495,000 A RESIDENCE
 - *RENOVATED DESIGNER KITCHEN
 - *SOPHISTICATED CITY OASIS
 - *MODERN OPULENCE



The Swann Group
SwannGroupSF.com
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