

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Feminist Icon Shelley Fernandez

Still Moving Mountains at Age 90

By Megan Wetherall

To encounter a person in their 10th decade is a rare gift, a moment to sit up and pay attention to a long life lived. If that person happens to be a neighbor such as mine, Shelley Fernandez, one has struck gold.

When my family arrived in Noe Valley seven years ago, Fernandez had been living two doors up our steep block on Hoffman Avenue for over half a century and had recently fractured her pelvis in an accident. She was told by her doctors that because of her advanced age she would never walk independently again.

Well, they clearly didn't know whom they were dealing with, nor of the indomitable spirit that would get Fernandez not only back on her feet but on a plane to India a year later to continue her life's work, "fighting for the underdog."

During our early conversations, I learned that Fernandez was grieving the loss of Keiko Fukuda, her "lifelong relationship" of 47 years, who had died in 2013, shortly before her 100th birthday.

More extraordinary details emerged: that Fukuda had held the highest rank in the world of a female *judoka* or



Approval Pending: A project along Diamond Street near the top of 29th Street has caused consternation among nearby residents, mostly because it will build four single-family homes and 10 duplexes but no low- or moderate-income housing on-site. *Rendering SCB Architects*

grand master, which is a 10th degree red belt, even though she was a petite lady under five feet who, Fernandez joked wryly, "couldn't even carry a suitcase."

Fukuda's grandfather had been Japan's Last Samurai and a famous jiu jitsu teacher, and she herself was the last surviving judoka to have been trained by the founder of judo—a non-violent martial art—Jigoro Kano.

Fernandez and Fukuda founded the only women's judo dojo (training center) in the United States in 1967, the Soko Joshi Judo Club. It moved to its current location at 1622 Castro St. in 1972.

Several articles about Fukuda can be

found in the archives of the *Noe Valley Voice*, and there is also a 2013 documentary called *Mrs. Judo*. I only wish I had met her, but I have had the privilege of knowing Fernandez and witnessing her tireless efforts to empower others, especially women and girls.

A Fighter Since Childhood

Age is immaterial to Fernandez, whose long life has defied convention and who has shattered many a glass ceiling along her way.

She was born in 1930 into the tenements of Flatbush in Brooklyn, N.Y., to a chorus dancer mother, Lillette, and a vaudeville performing father, Louis, both out of work and desperately poor due to the Great Depression. Her brother, Morton, came two years later, and when Fernandez describes family meal times, Charlie Chaplin springs to mind, as her parents would sing and dance to distract their children from the watery soup they boiled from the radishes and carrot tops discarded by the fruit and

Diamond Street Development Rankles Some

Housing Project Nowhere Near 'Affordable,' Neighbors Say

By Matthew S. Bajko

As nearby residents raise questions about the legality of a luxury housing development slated for a tree-lined sloping parcel bordering the Diamond Heights, Glen Park, and Noe Valley neighborhoods, a hearing on the project before the San Francisco Planning Commission continues to be postponed.

The property in question is the hillside at the intersection of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Diamond Street, not far from the Safeway shopping center. It is currently owned by the Cesar Chavez Foundation, started by the late farmworkers' rights advocate, which builds affordable housing throughout the Southwest.

The nonprofit has a deal to sell the property to developer On Diamond LLC, an affiliate of the San Francisco-based Emerald Fund, which is seeking approval to build 10 duplexes and four single-family residences for a total of 24 new homes, plus a detached parking garage with 36 spaces. The housing units at 1900 Diamond would range in size from 1,789 to 3,954 square feet, with the smallest likely to sell for at least \$3 million.

Instead of setting aside some of the homes as affordable housing, the developer intends to pay close to \$3 million to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to be used to build below-market-rate housing elsewhere in the city. But that arrangement

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A Passage in India: Shelley Fernandez poses in 2018 with 12-year-old student Adiba, a resident of Patiala, India. Over the past seven years, Fernandez and Noe Valley's Soko Joshi Judo Club have offered girls in India's Punjab region free classes. *Photo courtesy Shelley Fernandez*



Neighborhood Nuptials: To put the icing on the cake of their July wedding celebration at Mendocino Magic in Laytonville, Calif., Lily Jampol and Phillip Kobernick exchanged vows on Billy Goat Hill on Thursday, Aug. 12. See more photos on page 11. *Photo by Art Bodner*

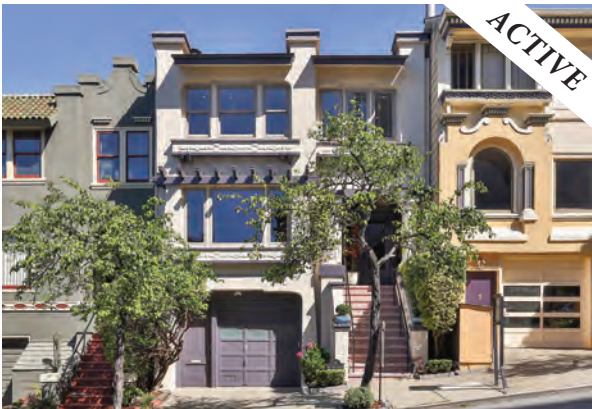


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The first half of 2021 ended on a high note for SF real estate, and after a typical summer slow down, the fall market is coming in hot. So far this year, SF home prices are up 16% over pre-pandemic 2019 prices. Spring sales volume ran well above seasonal norms, and condo sales hit an all time high after a precipitous, pandemic decline. Low inventory and interest rates combined with high buyer demand brought us back to heavy competition and overbidding. Jessica Branson, as one of SF’s top Realtors, adapted skillfully to selling during the pandemic, broke 2020 sales records, and continues to lead her clients to success with intelligence and professionalism. Will 2021 close at the strongest level yet? What's the 2022 outlook? **As a top SF realtor for 15 years, Jessica is an expert at timing, strategy and preparing property for successful sales. If you are considering selling your home, make sure to interview Jessica, and let her intelligence, experience, and wisdom guide you! Her record of success speaks for itself.**

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Silvia Zeng

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October 2021 Market Update: New inventory has begun rolling in, with a large influx of condos currently on the market. Buyers appear to be taking longer to see all of this new condo inventory. But among the single family home market, well-positioned & well-priced homes are still receiving multiple offers within the initial two-week marketing period. If you're thinking of selling in the next six months, get in touch with us for more specific news about your property. With 30+ years of combined real estate sales experience on our team, we've helped hundreds of clients develop a winning strategy for a successful sale. **Call/Text/Email Us & we'll get to work for you!**

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LETTERS 58¢

Listen to the Science

Editor:

San Francisco’s leaders keep showing us they’re not up to the enormous mitigation and adaptation efforts needed for the city to survive climate change. Just as they’ve failed to reduce traffic deaths with their watered-down version of Vision Zero, their actions on climate change are a lot of noise that has accomplished almost nothing.

For example, they are wasting our money and resources to sue the state for water that doesn’t exist. We’re in a megadrought, a megadrought made worse by climate change, yet our leaders believe it’s better to go to court than to listen to the science and take concrete, physical actions—like installing black-water recycling, fixing our sewer/rainwater system, increasing permeable surface areas, and much more.

If our leaders can’t follow the simple science that makes Vision Zero work in other places, how can we trust them with climate change?

Ellen Koivisto

Numb to Crime

Editor:

I was amazed by the Zipley’s “ad” in the September issue [a cartoon by Owen Baker-Flynn]. We have become numb to property crime.

I grew up in New York during the 1970s. It was common practice to put a “No Radio” sign on your dash. It got so bad some jerk broke my friend’s window and wrote “Get one!” on it.

We are at that point now in San Francisco.

Rick Carell

Parks for Everyone!

Editor:

I can’t tell you how excited I am to be living adjacent to one of our city’s latest designated park areas. I look forward to documenting the rise in property values that accompany those who are lucky enough to live on one of these new grand pedestrian thoroughfares.

I’ll equally look forward to requesting similar civic improvements to every other street in the city, so all residents can equally share in the bounty and benefits that the SFMTA has decided to bestow upon the residents of our fair city.

I’ll be particularly interested in looking at all the studies and criteria that went into why each street was chosen for the initial trial runs of this citywide civic redevelopment.

Kevin Roth
Noe Valley resident

The ‘But’ Gives It Away

Editor:

A proper response to anti-Semitism or racism of any kind is to unequivocally condemn it, not add a “but” as Bernie did in his August letter to the editor. Criticism of Israel, like criticism of any state, is legitimate, but it is unacceptable to respond to graffiti of a synagogue by claiming that you’re not trying to justify it and then attempting to justify it through criticism of the Jewish state (and baseless lies such as Israel committing “genocide”).

Paul Lazarow
Valley Street

Grading the J-Church

Editor:

Thank you for your article about the J-Church (“Residents Say Make the J Go Downtown Again,” by Matthew S. Bajko, *Voice* September 2021).

After telling us that the 2022 Service Plan would address the J-Church line’s forced transfer at Market Street, the SFMTA released their plan with *no mention* of the J in any of the options.

After complaints from our Restore the J Workgroup, the MTA added a J-Church button to their web page, but it only links you to their email. Still, J-Church riders should send an email to TellMuni@SFMTA.com with the subject “2022 Muni Service: J-Church” and demand that Muni restore the J to downtown and end the forced transfer.

They also are invited to join us Sunday, Oct. 3, for a Rally to Restore the J-Church direct service to downtown. It will be from 2:45 to 5 p.m., in front of the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St. For information contact RestoreJ@sbcglobal.net.

Incidentally, on Sept. 8, members of Restore the J rode Muni with Supervisor Rafael Mandelman from



Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Kathy Setian (using the walker), and members of the Restore the J Workgroup navigate tracks on Market Street as they endeavor to transfer from the J-Church streetcar to another Muni line headed downtown. Setian’s letter below describes the obstacles they faced getting to City Hall on Transit Day, Sept. 8.

Photo by David Yogi

24th Street to City Hall. Yours truly had a temporary disability after hip surgery, so the transfer at Market Street was an odyssey that involved navigating multiple tracks to cross Church Street; discovering an escalator going up, not down to the subway, and an elevator that appeared to be out of order; and switching to an F streetcar, whose operator had to retrieve a metal bridge to span the gap to a caged lift in order for me to board. After we dismounted the same way at Van Ness, scouts fanned out to locate the unmarked stop for the 49 bus. After crossing multiple lanes of Van Ness traffic through two stoplight cycles, the group boarded the bus to City Hall, finally finishing our commute in an hour.

This is a transfer I would wish on no one—no one other than Jeffrey Tumlin!

Kathy Setian
Sanchez Street

Bookseller’s New Chapter

Dear Editor, and Friends and Neighbors:

I have some news to share with you about Folio Books, which is celebrating its eighth anniversary this November. We’ve survived the tough pandemic months and emerged stronger than ever, and I’ve decided that this is the right time to retire. I’m turning Folio over to an impressive new team who will also be co-owners along with my husband John and me.

I opened Folio Books in 2013 with the philosophy that each person through the door and each book on our shelves should be another chance to create a happy outcome for someone—to be welcomed, to feel at home among books, to leave with a bundle of words that would later unfold inside a mind. With an outstanding staff of booksellers working to make that happen, Folio has had over 200,000 customer transactions

and sent nearly 350,000 books out into the world. We hope we have often managed to hit the mark.

The dream of working as a bookseller is to get the right books into the right hands. The dream of a small business owner is to work hard to build something and then see that it has a future when you step away. To have both those dreams realized means everything to me, and I will always treasure the lovely interactions I’ve had with so many customers and members of the community.

Alissa Hugel, Martha Dietzel, and Katerina Argyres have been fully in their new roles for a few months now, and if you’ve been by since we re-opened for browsing you’ve seen the vibrancy they’re bringing to the store. They are a troika of smart, skilled, kind, funny women, all passionate readers who started in bookselling during their teens and never completely left, even as they pursued additional job and educational opportunities and learned new skills. I can’t imagine a better team to take Folio Books forward.

The last year and a half have not been easy, but the overwhelming support and encouragement the bookstore received gave us the strength to get through it. Thank you all so much for that. I can’t think of a better place than Noe Valley to have a bookstore—a neighborhood full of readers, and kind, caring, and smart ones at that.

We want to celebrate and say thanks Nov. 4 to 6 with a storewide sale and charity fundraising drive. I’ll be there from 2 to 6 each day, and I hope you can stop by to say so long and meet the new team.

All the best and keep reading,

Paula Foley
Folio Books

editor@noevalleyvoice.com



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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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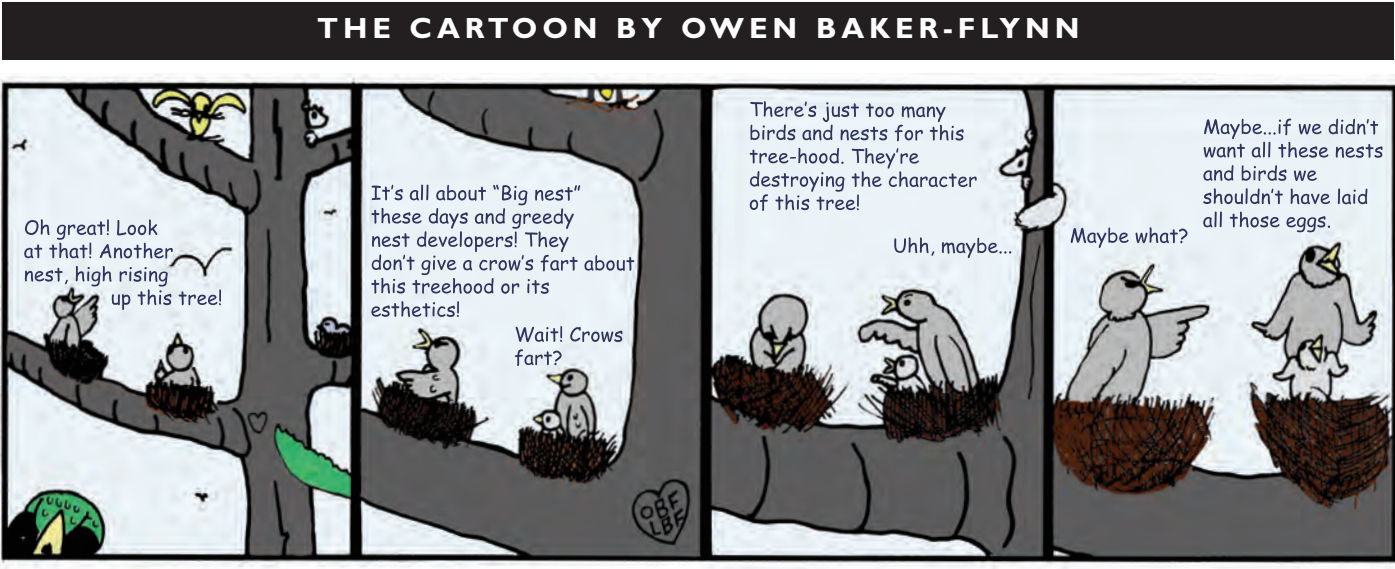
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Class Act

ACROSS

1. Goldfish, e.g.

5. Concorde, e.g.

8. Allan-____ (Robin Hood cohort)

13. Hurler Hershtiser

14. Gulp down

16. Leaning tower city resident

17. Snap-together pre-fab apartment house, e.g.

20. Game tile with white dots

21. Like a House representative's term

22. Ulan _____, Mongolia

24. Latin I OI verb

25. Gotten out of bed

28. Lunar rover, familiarly

33. Main at Novy

35. Boozer

36. "I Got Rhythm" lyricist Gershwin

37. Had a meal

38. Ignore the alarm clock

41. Headed up

42. Wrath

43. 911 respondent, briefly

44. Dozed (off)

46. Janitor's water carrier on wheels

50. Harry and William's mum

51. Superlative suffix

52. Mercury and Saturn

54. Buck's rack

58. Big name in paperbacks

61. Place for classes on Church Street, and the inspiration for this puzzle

DOWN

1. URL ender

2. Baseball's youngest 600-homer man, informally

3. Edit menu choice

4. Worker under a sink

5. Minimal

6. Tasty fungus, familiarly

7. Place for a bath

8. Cool composure

9. "____ Know?" (trivia heading)

10. Indochine locale

11. Singer Cantrell

12. Bridge or tunnel designer: Abbr.

15. Belly

18. Jungle vines

19. "Sign me up!"

23. Beverage brewed from petals or buds

25. Point again, as a gun

26. Emcee's forte

27. Precipitous

29. Alley _____

30. Funny lady Radner

31. Advocating ecological awareness

32. "Etc.," when tripled

34. Carmen of "Baywatch"

39. JFK brother

40. "Ooh! Bad idea!"

64. Give _____ (try)

65. Skulk

66. Apt rhyme for "casino"

67. Brand of cling wrap

68. Kind of double curve

69. "Little Women" character

45. Bother

47. Expensive caviar

48. Applied to, as skin medicine

49. Potatoes and yams

53. To-do list entries

54. French friends

55. _____ bene

56. Construction beam

57. Where funny lady Radner got famous, for short

59. "Zip-____-Doo-Dah" (Song of the South song)

60. Big structure behind Safeway on Church

62. Billiard stick

63. Cry of delight

Solution on Page 22

Find more Crosswords at noevalleyvoice.com

Numbers Down Slightly in August

There was a bit of good news for Noe Valley residents and merchants as summer came to an end: criminal activity calmed down in August. The city's digital map of San Francisco Police Department incident reports showed nearly a 30 percent decline in neighborhood incidents since July in the 10 categories of crime the *Voice* is tracking (see table below). Still, there were 93 incidents reported during the month.

Topping the list were 42 larceny/thefts, including at least 20 car break-ins, three stripped vehicles, three stolen license plates, and five package thefts. Burglars remained busy in August, though much less so than in June or July. The majority of the 14 incidents reported during the month took place at homes or apartment buildings. There was one at a Noe Valley business and another at a construction site.

We collected the August numbers on Sept. 11, 2021, from the digital *Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present* at Data.sfgov.org. The dataset defines Noe Valley as an area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

In the real world, Noe Valley falls under two police jurisdictions, Mission and Ingleside. The commander at Mission Police Station is Capt. Rachel Moran. To contact her, call 415-558-5400 or email rachel.moran@sfgov.org. The Ingleside Station captain is Nicole Jones. Capt. Jones can be reached at 415-404-4000 or by emailing nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org. For non-emergency incidents, call 415-553-0123. In an emergency, call 911.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA

Noe Valley Incident Reports January – August 2021

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

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783>. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications and updates are completed. August data were gathered by the Noe Valley Voice Sept. 11, 2021.

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\$4.79

Green Forest

Double Roll Toilet Paper

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\$12.99

Les Folies Fromage

Piment Espelette Gelee

-reg 5.99

\$4.99

Cypress Grove

Chevre Discs

4 oz -5.99

\$5.29

Wonderful

Pistachios

7 oz

\$5.99

Twinnings

Tea

20 ct -reg 4.99-5.29

\$4.49

Planet

Laundry Detergent

50 oz -reg 10.49

\$8.99

Caggiano

Sweet & Hot Italian Links

-reg 9.99/lb

\$9.49/lb

Sagra

Olive Oil

33.8 oz -reg 11.99

\$11.49

De Cecco

Pasta

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2/\$4

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\$8.29

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Shelley Fernandez: A Life Entwined With Judo Legend Keiko Fukuda

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vegetable store below.

Meanwhile at school, Fernandez refused to get in the free lunch line that singled out the poor children, because of the stigma, so she grew up malnourished and to this day has to be cajoled to cook. “I just steeled myself not to think about food.”

Even though Fernandez grew up in poverty, she remembers the moment when her eyes were opened to “real suffering.” It was 1939 and a Jewish family moved into the empty apartment next door. They had escaped on the last ship out of Germany and the father had been blinded by the Nazis. “They looked at us in fear, and when my mother saw that they had nothing, she told my father that we would give them our bed. My father said, ‘What do you mean? All we have is our bed!’ My brother and I slept on the couch sideways. I just remember the look in my mother’s eyes, the look in the other mother’s eyes, the man being blind, and it affected me very deeply. I said to my brother, ‘We are sleeping on the floor.’”

When Fernandez was 13 and on a subway platform in her predominantly white neighborhood of Brooklyn, she saw a gang of boys circling a black girl and screaming abuse at her. Fernandez shouted to the girl, “Let’s get them.” Together they launched at the boys, and afterwards when the girl asked Fernandez why she had helped her, Fernandez replied, “I don’t see the difference between us.”

Fernandez jokes that her real claim to fame is she used to walk to school, P.S. 238, with Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Arthur Miller and Donald Keene were also alums. “There was something in the air in that particular neighborhood of Brooklyn that produced people who seemed to go forward in their lives. A lot of the parents were not particularly educated, many were immigrants, so



Shelley Fernandez poses beneath a portrait of Keiko Fukuda (1913-2013), whose teachings and inspiration played a key role in Fernandez’ own remarkable achievements—in advancing equal rights for women.

Photo by Megan Wetherall

education was a very important factor.”

Onward to San Francisco

Fernandez was fiercely academic and feasted on poetry and theater. During high school she earned a dollar a day to be on stage as an extra in a crowd scene at the Metropolitan Opera, brandishing a spear in Egyptian garb. When she graduated early and told her father she wanted to go on to college, he retorted, “No woman in this family has ever been to college, and no woman ever will.” Fernandez left home with \$11 in her wallet and moved to Manhattan. She got a room for \$7 a week and a job

in a bookstore, and by 1951 was working at Dumont Television as a stage manager on a space show called *Captain Video*.

Once she had saved up, she was ready to apply to colleges far away. She took a map, closed her eyes, and her finger landed on San Francisco. When she was offered a scholarship to Mills College, her high school teachers pooled together to raise the money for a plane ticket and she was off.

Tumbling Into Judo

Until 1964, when Fernandez first encountered judo, she had always regarded herself as non-athletic and uncoordinated. She had consistently failed the swimming test at Mills, due to an almost drowning incident when she was an 11-year-old Girl Scout. By

now, she was teaching Spanish and had become frustrated with a student who never did her homework, apparently because the girl was attending judo classes at night. Curious, Fernandez decided to go along and watch from the back row.

She was dubious when the judo teacher suggested she try it. However, when he explained that judo was not just a sport, but an art and a science, Fernandez decided to give it a go and was immediately hooked.

“I realized it wasn’t about brute force and physical strength,” she explains. “It’s about technique, speed, concentration, and your mind telling your body what to do and your spirit making it happen. That spirit meant self-esteem and self-confidence.”

When Keiko Fukuda, the world’s leading female judo practitioner, showed up from Japan at this same dojo during a tour of California schools in 1966, the dojo’s male *sensei* (teacher) cautioned the mostly male students in the class to be gentle with this little woman in her 50s. “The next thing they knew, they were [thrown] across the room!” Fernandez laughs. “She was an expert in reading how a person moved.”

Fukuda encouraged Fernandez to go to Tokyo and continue her judo studies there, but she warned it would mean practicing six days a week in sweltering heat in a heavy uniform. Japan’s Kodokan Judo Institute had 99 dojos for men and only one for women, in the building’s basement. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Fernandez left for Tokyo, returning in the fall with a brown belt.

By then, though, it was time for Fukuda to go back to Japan. “I said to myself, I have to find a way to keep her here,” Fernandez recalls. “I had just bought a house with a loan from the teachers’ credit union, and I asked Keiko, would you like to come and stay for a while, and she said yes and then stayed forever.”

Honorable Elder Sister

Fernandez helped Fukuda get a job teaching judo at City College and at Mills, where the head of the PE department told Fukuda, “If you can teach Shelley, you can teach anybody.”

Next Fernandez had to help Fukuda get immigration papers, as the quota at the time for Asians was almost non-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The corner that would eventually become the site of the Soko Joshi Judo Club is captured in this 1905 photo of rail construction at 26th and Castro streets.



Keiko Fukuda (left) and Shelley Fernandez share a funny moment while practicing their art at the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo in the summer of 1968.

Photos courtesy Shelley Fernandez

Shelley Fernandez Continuing the Legacy With Native American Girls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

existent. She discovered a category called the third preference, which had never been invoked and was vital to the defense of the country. “I said that’s it!” and Fernandez took Fukuda to all the army bases, sheriffs, and police departments in California until she had over 2,000 signatures acknowledging that as the highest-level judo woman in the world (even then), Fukuda was important to U.S. security. She won the third preference. “She realized that she could have her own life here. She couldn’t get out of the basement in Japan.”

In America, Fukuda was able to open her own dojo, set up tournaments and judo camps, and accept invitations to teach around the world. Every year, she and her students performed at the cherry blossom festival in San Francisco. She practiced the art of judo till the end of her life.

“I didn’t call her Keiko,” notes Fernandez. “I called her Onee Sama, which means Honorable Elder Sister. She entered into my heart and my spirit and vice versa. She had tremendous discipline, but she also had a great sense of humor. I once made her laugh so hard, by coming down the stairs to music in my samurai outfit wielding a massive sword, that she broke her tooth.”

When Fukuda cooked the traditional rice and daikon dishes she was taught as a girl growing up in the Showa era, Fernandez ate with gusto. She still savors the memory of those flavors.

The First Casa for Women

As her interests expanded, Fernandez earned a PhD in health administration. Sick of prejudice and inequality, she



Schoolgirls wave the peace sign along with their U.S. visitors at a 2016 judo class and demonstration in India.

Photo courtesy Shelley Fernandez

became president of the San Francisco NOW (National Organization for Women) and started a consciousness-raising group on the subject of battered women. In the group’s meetings, she discovered that a quarter of the members had either experienced or witnessed assault. “That’s when I said we’ve got to do something about it, and we put announcements on the sides of the buses and handed out pamphlets.”

It wasn’t until Fernandez was approached by the wife of a police officer with a black eye and a ruptured spleen that she gained some leverage. In 1971, she opened La Casa de las Madras in a secret location, the first shelter for battered women (and their

children) *in the country*. She delivered this message to the police department: “I’m tired of you telling me couples should kiss and make up [in domestic violence incidents]. I want you to bring the women to the lobby of this hospital, and we will send somebody to pick them up, day or night.”

Health Care a Right

During the civil rights movement, Fernandez was involved in the desegregation of public schools, where she also worked, first as a teacher and then as a vice principal. In this role, she created the first bilingual program for San Mateo County, as she saw many children whose first language was Spanish mistakenly placed in special education.

When one of her own students was hit by a car and had his ear severed in front of her school in Daly City, Fernandez rushed him to the nearest hospital, Mary’s Help, and was stunned when he was denied care. “I went wild,” Fernandez recalls. “I put the doctor in a judo armlock and said, ‘If you don’t take care of this boy, you will be in court in three days.’”

Soon after, she founded Hermanos Latinos and visited the homes of all of her students, many of them children of field workers, to find out how many others had been turned away for lack of funds or insurance. She also discovered Mary’s Help was in breach of contract, since it was funded in part by federal grants and therefore obligated to provide a reasonable amount of free inpatient care and no racial discrimination. Fernandez went to the Archdiocese and won the case in the Ecclesiastical Courts. In 1967, she got the funding to open Our Lady of Guadalupe Health Center in an old jailhouse in Daly City, one of the first free medical clinics in the country.

To India and Oklahoma

Before Fukuda died, Fernandez promised to continue her mentor’s legacy to teach disenfranchised women around the world how to defend themselves. They formed the Keiko Fukuda and Shelley Fernandez Girls and Women Judo Foundation in 2012, which ensured that the building housing the dojo would never be sold and the teaching of judo would continue, with

Wilina Monar, a longtime student of Fukuda, at the helm.

Against all odds, over the last seven years, the foundation has taken judo into government schools serving girls from the lowest caste in the city of Patiala in the Punjab region of India, and in so doing has strengthened the bodies and minds of countless young women. Fernandez has personally made the long journey to Punjab five times and is hoping to go again.

Also, to her relief, the Soko Joshi Judo Club has been able to reopen this fall, after 18 months of closure and teaching via zoom. When I accompanied Fernandez there recently and watched the students enter, remove their shoes, bow, and start their warm-ups, I reflected on the extraordinary history of the 1880 Victorian in which we stood. The building’s original owners had used the space as a ballroom, and guests had tied their horses to a railing outside.

Her Legacy

In the years left to her, Fernandez is working to fulfill her own and Fukuda’s dream of bringing judo to women and girls on Native American reservations, starting in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. The foundation already offers full judo scholarships to Native American females in San Francisco. With each step forward, Fernandez carries with her the words of Keiko Fukuda: be strong, be kind, be beautiful. ■



Foundation co-founder Shelley Fernandez and current head teacher Wilina Monar (right) stand in front of the Soko Joshi Judo Club at 1622 Castro St. The dojo’s doors opened in September (to ages 14 and up), after 18 months of pandemic closure. Photo by Megan Wetherall

To learn more about the classes at Soko Joshi Judo Club, currently available for female students ages 14 and up, go to <https://sokojoshijudo.com>. Children’s classes will resume when vaccinations become available. To learn more about Keiko Fukuda and her life in Noe Valley, look up the book *Reflections of Keiko Fukuda*, as told to Kumiko Hirano. To learn more about the foundation, go to keikofukudajudofoundation.org

Neighbors Dig In to Diamond Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has upset nearby residents who want to see affordable housing on the Diamond Heights land.

They contend since the Cesar Chavez Foundation used more than \$20 million in tax-exempt affordable housing bonds issued by a state development agency to purchase and rehabilitate the property in 2004, including the Vista Del Monte affordable housing complex at 49 Goldmine Drive, it must abide by a stipulation in the deed that requires it to maintain the property for affordable multi-family rental uses for a period of 55 years. Supporting them is former Mayor Art Agnos.

“Since 2004, the Vista Del Monte property in Diamond Heights has been designated for affordable housing—a mission that honors the legacy of Cesar Chavez,” said Agnos, who served as mayor from 1988 to 1992. “Selling that property to a for-profit developer violates that promise and the historic relationship between our city and the UFW that goes back to the 1960s and culminated in San Francisco becoming the first major American city to actively support the 1988 UFW Grape Boycott.”

The project’s opponents have asked the city attorney’s office to review the proposed sale of the land and are pressing the planning commission to delay its final vote on the development.

“We are requesting the San Francisco planning department to wait until all legal issues are figured out. The city attorney right now is looking at the legal issues,” said Betsy Eddy, co-president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. “Our lawyer believes the land can only be developed for affordable housing. Even beyond that, whatever happens needs to be a benefit and enjoyment for the people who live in the 104 apartments that are part of Vista Del Monte.”

A hearing had initially been slated for August but was pushed back to mid-October. In late September, the planning department told the *Voice* the hearing had been scheduled for the commission’s Oct. 28 meeting.

“The project is being continued to allow sufficient time (1) to complete CEQA review and (2) for the sponsor to consider potential changes in connection with neighborhood concerns,” explained Daniel A. Sider, the city agency’s chief of staff, referring to the California Environmental Quality Act review process.

Foundation Says Hill Separate

Brook Hefner, who is communications director for the Chavez foundation, said late last month that the foundation wasn’t aware of the city attorney’s office reviewing the matter nor had it been contacted by the agency. A spokesperson for the city attorney had not responded by the *Voice*’s deadline to inquiries on the matter.

“We don’t believe there are any legal issues that need to be worked out,” wrote Hefner in an emailed reply. “When the Cesar Chavez Foundation purchased the property in Diamond Heights, the existing affordable housing was at risk of being converted to market rate housing. The Chavez Foundation’s purchase of the property ensured that the housing remained affordable. We satisfied all of the agreements laid out by the city when we purchased the property, and it is guaranteed to remain affordable until at least 2061.”

As for the vacant hillside, Hefner contended it “is a separate legal property and its sale will not affect the existing affordable housing that we are maintaining and improving upon with a major renovation to preserve the property value and preserve the affordability.”

Proceeds Likely to Stay in CA

Alfredo Izmajtovich, the foundation’s executive vice president of housing and economic development, told KCBS Radio last month that the nonprofit was bound to its contract with the Emerald Fund and felt it made “more sense” to sell the property than to develop it itself.

In a July 30 letter to the Diamond Heights Community Association, Izmajtovich wrote “the great likelihood” is that the Chavez foundation would use the proceeds from any sale of the property to build affordable housing in California and not another southwestern state.

“Our Board has long followed a practice of reinvesting in the places (or states) that have generated the funds that are being allocated. Moreover, California is the state where most of our housing is built and most of our services are provided,” he wrote. “There is no plan or intention to invest the proceeds in Texas or Arizona.”

Eddy said her association feels “that is one little victory.”

Pocket Park a Possibility

Marc Babsin, a principal and president of the Emerald Fund, failed to respond to a request for comment. Over the summer, he had defended the decision to build all-luxury housing at the site in an interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, noting the in-lieu



Most of the Monterey Cypress trees along Diamond Street between Diamond Heights Boulevard and 29th Street will be removed if the city gives final approval to a project to build 24 luxury housing units on the site.
Photo by Corrie M.Anders

fee it would instead pay the city would be enough to finance the construction of 11 affordable units at another site.

He also pointed out that, in response to feedback from nearby residents, the

development plans would include a pocket park on the southwest corner of the property and improvements aimed at pedestrian safety in the area.

Although the Diamond Heights residents group is officially remaining neutral about the project, it has detailed the concerns expressed by opponents on a special page on the association’s website at <https://dhcasf.org/5367-dh-blvd-1900-diamond/>.

More than 700 people who oppose the current development proposal for various reasons have signed an online petition at 1900diamondforall.com. Their issues range from the lack of affordable housing to the loss of natural habitat to the traffic impacts the project would bring.

Why Not Housing for Nurses?

Eddy told the *Voice* that the 1900 Diamond for All group, which she co-leads, is prepared to file an appeal with the Board of Supervisors if the planning commission votes to approve the project as currently proposed.

“I think we would much prefer affordable housing, because that is what we need in the city,” said Eddy, who has lived by Walter Haas Park about two blocks away from the Chavez foundation’s parcel with her husband, John Wilk, for 35 years. “There is some interest in seeing housing for firefighters and teachers and nurses be built there because that is just not getting built.”

Because he would vote on the development should it be appealed, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman is staying neutral for now. He told the *Voice* he plans to “dig in more deeply” into the project.

“Definitely, there are pluses and minuses to it,” he said. “It is a site, for example, of why it is hard to get more affordable development in Noe Valley, maybe because of neighbor response but also the difficulty of developing the site. What is left to build on in District 8, developers are finding, are these very steep hillsides.” ■



Nancy Reese

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The Wedding on the Hill

It Was Lovely the Second Time Around

On the warm summer evening of Thursday, Aug. 11, Lily Jampol and Phillip Kobernick exchanged vows in a small ceremony on Billy Goat Hill, on the southern edge of Noe Valley.

Actually, it was the second wedding celebration for the couple, who live on 26th Street. The first, a weekend event in late July with 65 friends at the Mendocino Magic lake and campground in Laytonville, Calif., had been interrupted midway by a medical scare. (No worries—all turned out okay.) Still, the couple had not been able to attend their wedding dinner and party, nor had they danced their first dance. More importantly, they had not been able to complete their marriage certificate.

“When my parents found out, they offered to come up [from Costa Rica] and do a small ceremony with us,” said Jampol, who works for ReadySet, a diversity, equity, and inclusions (DEI) firm. “My father, Glenn Jampol, is conveniently ordained as a minister of the Church of Universal Life, so he conducted our tiny wedding on Billy Goat Hill, in the presence of my mother, Teresa Osma, and our neighbor, Leah Kennedy, whom we are very close to.” The newlyweds also celebrated with dinner at Sorrel on Sacramento Street.

Earlier in the week, they had gone to see the Mission District band they had wanted to dance to at Mendocino Magic. “Our community has been so supportive,” said Jampol. “We saw Banda Sin Nombre, and they played our first dance song for us [*Sabor a Mi*], and dedicated it to us while we did a little rumba in the corner.” (Kobernick, a manager at Peninsula Clean Energy, is also an expert at ballroom dancing.) “Our caterer also invited us to a private dinner, to make up for us having missed out,” said Jampol. “And of course, the *Noe Valley Voice* [meaning photographer Art Bodner] allowed us to get a little closure by coming to our ceremony on the hill.”

Besides a demonstration of their love, the event at the Billy Goat Hill lookout, said Kobernick, was “a celebration of us and our lives in San Francisco. A part of our wedding was with friends up north, and a part was in our neighborhood with family, which was really great. But I think the real highlight (for me at least) was to finally be married!”

Congratulations to the happy couple.




Lily Jampol and Phillip Kobernick are all smiles on their official wedding day in Noe Valley.

Photos by Art Bodner



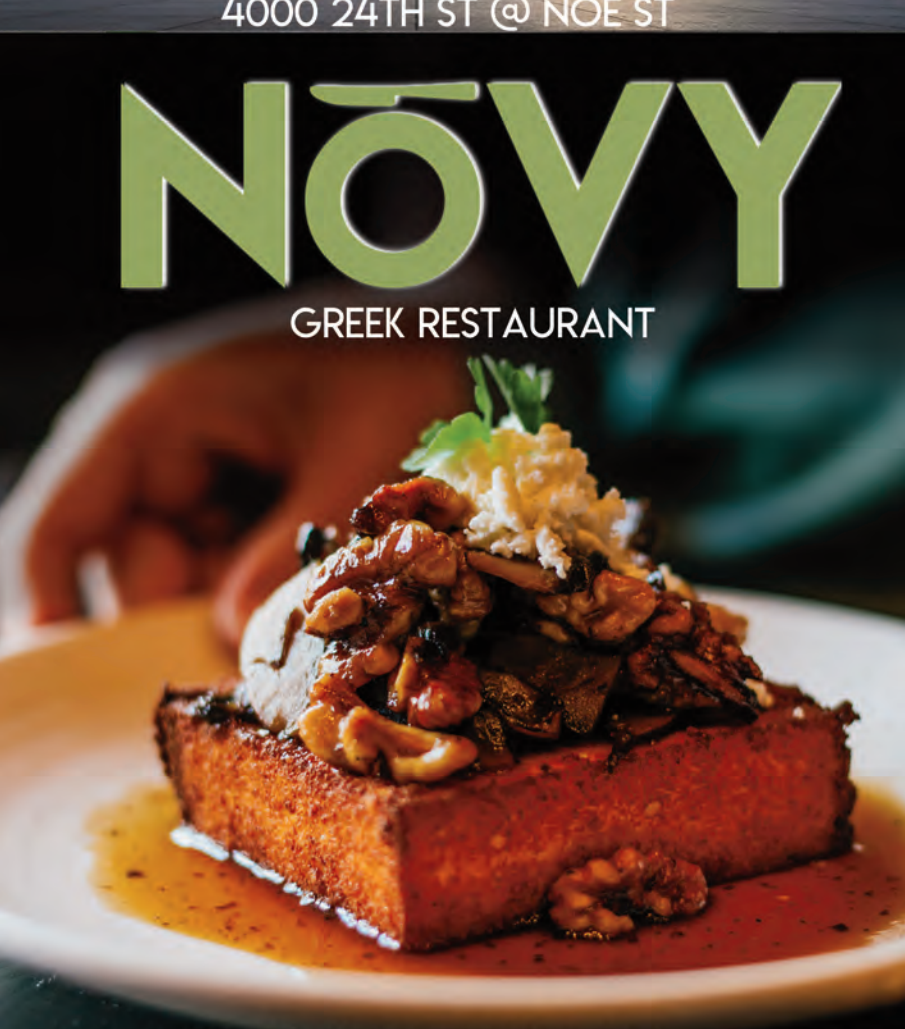
Lily Jampol’s parents, Glenn Jampol and Teresa Osma, give the green light for a kiss at their daughter’s wedding to Phillip Kobernick on Billy Goat Hill on Aug. 11.



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| SAT NOV 13 | AMISHA DODHIA GURBANI • MUMBAI MODERN: VEGETARIAN RECIPES INSPIRED BY INDIAN ROOTS AND CALIFORNIA CUISINE • 3:00 P.M. FREE! A marriage of traditional Gujarati cuisine, Mumbai street food, and modern innovation inspired by the bountiful fresh ingredients of California. |
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| TUES NOV 16 | PRIYA FIELDING-SINGH, PHD • HOW THE OTHER HALF EATS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF FOOD AND INEQUALITY IN AMERICA • 6:30 P.M. FREE! A fascinating look at dietary differences along class lines, revealing that lack of access to healthy food is far from the primary driver of nutritional inequality in America. |

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Farmers Market Sets the Table

By Helping to Provide Food for Families With Friends

By Kit Cameron

At 9:15 a.m., a steel-gray Ford van pulls up to the Noe Valley Farmers Market at the Town Square on 24th Street. Marin Garcia of the non-profit Friends of the Children jumps out, ready to shop. She and Elizabeth Crane, market manager, line up the quantities and prices of today’s bounty from participating vendors.

The two women pilot a little wagon to Herr Family Farms to collect a box of red peppers and 25 baskets of succulent cherry tomatoes. Next they pick up a box of “super sweet” nectarines and plums from Twin Girls, and 25 dozen eggs and cantaloupes from Capay Organic, plus sturdy wheat loaves from Sour Flour.

At each stall, Garcia pulls out an envelope and counts out bills. Huge

bags of celery and chard from Tomatero Farms are weighed and loaded into the rapidly filling van.

“Getting to a pre-agreed weight with the correct number of items can be a challenge,” says Crane. And as they add several flats of strawberries, she adds, “Buying produce by the piece is so much easier.”

Still, it’s worth the effort, knowing the recipients will appreciate the freshness and variety of the produce.

Early in the Pandemic

A conversation in the spring of 2020 between longtime Noe Valley residents and friends Peter Gabel and Michael Rugen, about “food deserts,” neighborhoods without grocery stores, sparked the new partnership in providing bags of organic farm produce for families in the Bayview District.

Gabel, a co-founder and board member of the Noe Valley Farmers Market, persuaded vendors at the Saturday market to sell food at a discount to Friends, an organization that pairs children and youth with adult mentors. The produce purchased is then distributed to about 25 families participating in the Friends of the Children program.

Friends has been connecting at-risk youth in the Bayview to adult mentors since 2017 and currently gives 96 children a consistent caring adult presence “no matter what,” Rugen says. Paid professional mentors stay with each child from kindergarten all the way through high school.

The families who receive food packages trust that Friends—and the Farmers Market by extension—will be partners with them through the long haul. Both organizations expect the number of families to grow.

For Rugen, Friends’ executive direc-

tor and San Francisco chapter founder, the food distribution has cemented the group’s relationship with its main clients, the children, during a year when normal contact has been all but impossible.

For Gabel, the partnership has helped fulfill a core mission of the Farmers Market’s board: to find ways to provide “healthy food and social justice.”

Contributions Grow

At first, the Noe Valley Farmers Market gave small grants from its own reserves to Friends of the Children, to pay the vendors each week. But then shoppers, who learned about the program from flyers at the market’s table, offered their donations as well.

Their outpouring of support has convinced Gabel the future success of the program lies with the community expanding its vision of “food justice” to include healthy food for all residents of San Francisco.

He and the Farmers Market board will notify the community of its next drive—for more funding, more Friends, and more food box packaging and delivery. Look for online posts or signs at the weekly farmers market (3861 24th St., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Join an October Bike-a-Thon

Meanwhile, a talk Gabel gave at GATE school in San Rafael has inspired 13-year-old Inner Richmond resident Tobias Hou to launch a bike-athon for the food project. Riders will create their own routes, sign up sponsors, set their money-per-mile rate, and bike their routes any day they choose before Oct. 31. Email Tobias at bikeathonsf@gmail.com to register using his Google signup form. Donations will go directly to Friends of



Each Saturday, the Noe Valley Farmers Market helps assemble bags of produce for delivery to families served by Friends of the Children. Donations are always welcome.

the Children.

Those who’d like to get involved with Friends or donate to the Farmers Market Project should go to FriendsSFBayArea.org or send a check with a Noe Valley Farmers Market notation to Friends of the Children, 111 Quint St., San Francisco, CA 94124.

To contact the Farmers Market, call 415-248-1332 or email info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com. If you’re interested in volunteering, email volunteer@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Nourishing Children

By 10:15 it’s all over, as Garcia packs the van tight (and in the case of the eggs and strawberries, very carefully) with another week’s worth of food on its way to the Bayview office of Friends. A small group of mentors will package the food for distribution and then fan out to visit individual families.

For them, the food program is only one aspect of their relationship with the children and their families.

For the participating families, say Garcia and Rugen, it is a true lifeline in what’s been a rough year, now stretching into two. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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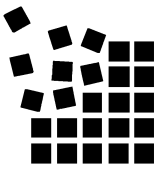
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Real Estate Ups and Downs

By Corrie M. Anders

Buyers purchased 14 single-family homes in Noe Valley in August, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco. That was three fewer than in July.

Meanwhile, shoppers picked up the keys to 12 condominiums—four more than in the previous month. At the same time, four apartment buildings changed hands, one more than in July.

It's hard to spot any trends in those numbers. Still, by sifting through the data, we can find some interesting tidbits.



A three-bedroom condominium in this elegant Queen Anne on Dolores Street sold in August for \$2,810,000. It is one of two units in the 1905 building.



The unobstructed views from this Duncan Street home, built in 1990, are spectacular. At \$4,150,000, the three-bedroom house was the neighborhood's priciest sale in August. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

For one, the average sale price of a single-family detached home in Noe Valley (\$2.76 million) dipped below \$3 million for the first time in 12 months. (We looked back in our files.) This was probably because there were no mega-luxury home sales in August, those in the \$6 to \$7 million range, to pump up the figures.

As in July, buyers engaged in bidding wars. Their overbidding gave sellers an average 13 percent more than the asking price. According to our records, that's the biggest tip for any August since 2014 (when the average soared 22 percent above asking).

Buyers also were quick to pull the trigger, making offers in an average 26 days, as compared to 50 days in August a year ago. Of course, that was at the height of the pandemic.

A Lofty Perch

It took 28 days for buyer and seller to seal the deal on the neighborhood's top seller in August, a 30-year-old home on a hillside in the 700 block of Duncan Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets.

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 | | | | | | |
| August 2021 | 14 | \$1,845,000 | \$4,150,000 | \$2,756,000 | 26 | 113% |
| July 2021 | 17 | \$2,030,000 | \$6,300,000 | \$3,337,948 | 15 | 108% |
| August 2020 | 14 | \$1,635,000 | \$5,375,000 | \$3,047,929 | 50 | 99% |
| Condominiums/TICs | | | | | | |
| August 2021 | 12 | \$700,000 | \$2,810,000 | \$1,678,750 | 17 | 109% |
| July 2021 | 8 | \$1,350,000 | \$2,360,000 | \$1,692,500 | 27 | 103% |
| August 2020 | 16 | \$875,000 | \$2,700,000 | \$1,542,091 | 33 | 104% |
| 2- to 4-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| August 2021 | 4 | \$1,585,750 | \$2,150,000 | \$1,940,188 | 56 | 97% |
| July 2021 | 3 | \$2,200,000 | \$4,050,000 | \$2,820,000 | 59 | 98% |
| August 2020 | 2 | \$1,985,000 | \$2,053,500 | \$2,019,250 | 19 | 104% |
| 5+-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| August 2021 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| July 2021 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| August 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. NVV10/2021

But surprisingly, the final price was \$4,150,000—\$100,000 less than what the seller had sought.

The three-level dwelling had been remodeled in 2016. It now housed three bedrooms and 2.5 baths in 3,678 square feet of living space and was embellished by a spiral staircase, a double-ceilinged sky-lit dining room, a chef's kitchen, two decks, a landscaped yard, and a two-car garage. The icing on the cake was a stunning view of downtown.

Condos High and Low

Topping the condominium sales was a residence in a Queen Anne Victorian in the 1100 block of Dolores Street, between 24th and 25th streets.

A buyer paid \$2,810,000 for the 2,013-square-foot home, which, besides the three bedrooms and two baths, featured a chef's kitchen, a private patio, deck, garage space, and 180-degree views of the city. The final amount was 22.6 percent above the seller's asking price (\$2,298,000).

If you're wondering about Noe Valley's least expensive property in August, it was a one-bedroom, one-bath condo with no parking in a four-unit building in the 1400 block of Church Street, between Cesar Chavez and 27th streets.

The sale price was \$700,000—8.5 percent more than the asking price (\$645,000). But it's a great location. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

| Unit | No. in Sample | Range September 2021 | Average September 2021 | Average August 2021 | Average September 2020 |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Studio | 10 | \$1,895 - \$2,495 | \$2,086 / mo. | \$2,038 / mo. | \$2,120 / mo. |
| 1-bdrm | 42 | \$1,990 - \$3,850 | \$2,588 / mo. | \$2,689 / mo. | \$2,780 / mo. |
| 2-bdrm | 41 | \$3,495 - \$6,000 | \$3,668 / mo. | \$3,975 / mo. | \$3,953 / mo. |
| 3-bdrm | 15 | \$3,850 - \$12,500 | \$5,689 / mo. | \$6,251 / mo. | \$6,098 / mo. |
| 4+-bdrm | 8 | \$3,850 - \$12,500 | \$9,912 / mo. | \$8,471 / mo. | \$7,128 / mo. |

** This survey is based on a sample of 116 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Sept. 2–9, 2021. In September 2020, there were 271 listings. NVV10/2021



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Alvin and John check proof of vaccination before admitting Open Gym participants on a Saturday in September.
Photo by Chris Faust

Upper Noe Cautiously Optimistic

Upper Noe Rec Center at 295 Day St. is open for fall activities, including daily Auditorium Free Play and Open Gym. The initial offering of classes is still light, but more are on the way as conditions improve and instructors become available. See the full schedule below.

Note that everyone must wear a mask at all times while indoors. ID and proof of vaccination are required for anyone 12 and over. Check for class availability at sfrecpark.org/register. Call Upper Noe's office at 415-970-8061 to get updates on activities.

The Recreation Center hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Auditorium Free Play is 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on weekdays and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

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)

Upper Noe Fall Session (Sept. 7 – Nov. 20, 2021)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Upper Noe Rec Center hours: | Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 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 more information, see www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com. The park is open, so get out and play.

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

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

STORE TREK

In this Store Trek, the Voice catches up with a designer who has been bringing beauty to the corner of Church and 22nd streets for a little over a year.

THE SHOP BY JOHN JAMES
1001 Church Street at 22nd Street
Shopjohnjames.com
Johnjamesdesigns.com
John@johnjamesdesigns.com
415-385-1446

Walk into the eponymously named Shop by John James at the corner of 22nd and Church streets, and you will feel yourself surrounded by serenity and calm. Expansive windows and a welcoming open door provide light and air. Shelves of pressed-glass bud vases, buckets of fresh-cut flowers, and a display of works by local artists create the feeling of a studio combined with a luxurious living room. A white linen-covered sofa invites confidential chats with the owner himself.

“People come in and are completely soothed,” says John James, who creates everything from extravaganzas for a few hundred people to arrangements for an intimate lunch for two.

The floral and event designer has been living in San Francisco since 1991, with a colorful career that includes stints as a waiter at Zuni, a makeup artist for strippers at the Gold Club, and a protégé of Stanlee R. Gatti, world-renowned producer of weddings and society galas. From Gatti, James learned “scale, wonder, and grandeur,”



Floral designer and event planner John James relaxes outside his shop and gallery on Church Street.

Photo by Art Bodner

and how to convey a powerful theme by using temporary structures, interior design, lighting, flowers, and table settings.

He created floral arrangements for the upscale brasserie Hawthorne Lane in 1996, a time when dot.com companies, flush with cash and hubris, booked private rooms at the highly touted restaurant. That same year, he opened John James Studio, working out

of his home until he expanded into a large commercial space on Lusk Street in 2016.

Life was rosy until the spring of last year. “In 2019, I had a strong team, good vendors, and was doing big events. And then overnight, with the onset of Covid, all that changed.”

His calendar empty, James was forced to give up his studio, sell his equipment, lay off staff, and make an existential decision: “Was I going to move to Montana and write a book,” something he had contemplated for a while, “or start over with a small retail shop?”

His decision was to rent the space at 1001 Church St. and transform it into The Shop by John James. Though the storefront was “beat up” from its former incarnation as a dry cleaner, it had large windows and proximity to 24th Street. It also was close to his neighborhood. Since 2010, he had lived near the southern tip of Sanchez Street. (Now he resides on Dolores Street near 23rd, “insanely close” to the shop.)

James chose Noe Valley “because it has such a sense of self,” he says. “Breakfasting at Chloe’s, speaking German to the lady at Lehr’s German shop, tea at Lovejoy’s, and the produce market at the end of Church” are all reasons he wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

More importantly, “[The] neighbors are happy to have a flower shop on the corner.”

In August 2020 he opened his doors, tempting passersby with bouquets of flowers set alongside a cafe table and chairs. In October, he plans to add a black-and-white-striped coffee cart.

His primary focus is helping clients create those “big events that mean a lot.” A recent wedding at Beaulieu Garden in Napa Valley for 65 people involved a 16-foot Penske refrigerator truck, two cargo vans, and teaming up with Bay Area event planner Shannon Leahy. The result was a 40-foot floral border around a central stage, a lounge with soft furnishings, and bars and tables decorated with antique bud vases. To top it off, during the cocktail hour James presided over a floral crown-making station for guests.

In Noe Valley, he invites potential clients to come in his shop and pour out

their vision of their dream event. Not until they have explained exactly what they want does James begin to discuss a budget.

“A budget should not limit concepts. I can do a lot with any budget,” he says. Although he loves to orchestrate events in Pacific Heights or the Four Seasons Hotel, he is just as happy creating a centerpiece for a Noe Valley gathering of 20, “where the people are the focus.”

James works with mostly local farmers, some of whom he has known since his first foray into floral arranging for Aqua Restaurant in 1992. “I’ve always searched for organic growers because they are the best.”

He notes that customers are becoming “increasingly interested in local flowers,” as opposed to blooms grown in Holland or Peru. As farmers grapple with climate change, he says, they are finding ways to produce flowers with less water. California natives are an integral part of his floral mix.

This fall, James is offering workshops, for up to six people, in creating holiday wreaths and centerpieces. On Nov. 17, 19, and 30 and Dec. 8 and 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., he will show participants how to make their own holiday masterpieces, while they sip champagne and sample hors d’oeuvres in his gallery-like space. The workshop price of \$250 per person includes all floral materials and a tool kit with a knife, clippers, and a “rose stripper.” Contact him to reserve a space.

For Christmas, he will turn the shop into a glittering wonderland, featuring his own line of custom-made ornaments. Ask and he will come decorate your Christmas tree “from stem to stern,” starting from scratch or using your own collection of ornaments. But be warned. He has only five slots available for this service.

John James’ floral bouquets, ranging in price from \$45 to \$95, are available for pickup at the store or delivery in San Francisco.

You can explore the flowers online at Shopjohnjames.com or stroll by the shop, open Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; or Monday and Tuesday by appointment.

—Kit Cameron

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Voice, profiling stores and businesses in Noe Valley. Here we spotlight a café on 24th Street that is finally spreading its wings.

VILLAGE ROTISSERIE
4063 24th Street at Castro Street
415-660-7852
www.VillageRotisserie.com

Dog owners will be happy to know that the backyard patio remains welcoming to their canine companions at Village Rotisserie, the new all-things-chicken eatery that opened Sept. 8 at 4063 24th St. Long the home to several French restaurants, the oblong storefront has been given a complete makeover by siblings Priscilla Dosiou and Thomas Glenwright, who hail from Australia.

“It is definitely,” Glenwright confirmed when asked if the al fresco rear-yard dining area was open to four-legged friends.

How dog friendly the sister-brother duo would be has been one of the main questions they have been fielding since opening their decade-in-the-making restaurant.

Another inquiry has been what exactly makes their chicken Australian. Dosiou, now married to an American, left their home country 20 years ago. Glenwright arrived in San Francisco 17 years later.

“The rotisserie came from Australia,” explained Glenwright. He means their new Radiant 2000, described by its manufacturer as “the only machine in the world that can help you achieve a perfectly cooked roast, spit after spit after spit.”

Last November, the Australian culinary website Good Food broke the news that a new business would be setting up shop in Noe Valley focused on Sydney’s food staple, the rotisserie chicken. It curiously claimed the owners would face “a big job ahead trying to explain the Australian picnic food of choice to Americans.”

And when news came this spring that Village Rotisserie would open in the former Le Zinc location, the food site Eater SF promised the café would bring “a fresh spin on Australian-inspired chickens.”

Turns out all the clucking about a special Down Under recipe for the

local, free-range, humanely treated Mary’s chickens that Village Rotisserie uses was for naught. According to Glenwright, there isn’t “a huge difference” in how they prepare their birds from what Americans are used to.

“We are just Australian owners spinning American chicken,” he joked to the Voice.

A hint to their Sydney roots can be found in one of the signs hanging behind the food display cases. It quotes from a song by the Australian band Inxs: “Cause we all have wings... but some of us don’t know why...”

The first thing greeting customers as they walk in the front door is a display case of glistening roast chickens. Visitors can order a whole bird (\$26) or a half (\$14), and choose two sauces to accompany it, such as garlic, Greek lemon mayo, or spicy chipotle mayo. (Extra sauces cost \$2 apiece.)

Other options are a quarter chicken with a side of fries (\$10.50) or with a salad (\$14.50), or a half chicken with fries or a salad (\$19.50/\$25.50).

Also on the menu is fried chicken (\$15 for three pieces and a sauce; \$22 for five pieces and two sauces). Or you can try pulled chicken on a fresh bread roll (\$12), a similar sandwich with coleslaw on the chicken (\$12), or chicken in a bowl with a salad (\$14).

The salad options (\$8 for a side, \$22 for a large portion) will change with the seasons. But at opening, the choices included cold salads of green beans and potatoes dressed in avocado; soba noodles with summer veggies and sesame; and peas and broccoli with avocado and quinoa. Hot salad choices included roasted cauliflower with kalamata olives and roasted beets with caramelized fennel.

Several local beers from Fort Point and Drake’s (\$6) are on offer, as is a dry cider from Golden Gate (\$8). Featured wines include Pence Ranch 2018 chardonnay (\$13 a glass/\$52 a bottle) and Folk Machine 2020 pinot noir (\$12/\$48).

Orders can be placed in advance for pickup via the restaurant’s website or when customers walk in; reservations are not taken. It is a fast-casual type of service, with food ordered at the counter and then brought to the table for those dining on site.

Tables line the left side of the restaurant, with a small counter area to the right with seating for six people. Outside are nine round tables and two picnic tables, shaded by large white umbrellas. Everything is painted white with touches of peach.

“We didn’t do too much to be honest. We just livened it up a bit,” said



Chef Esteban Beas and owner Thomas Glenwright (right) take a moment to smile during their busy first week at Village Rotisserie on 24th Street. Photo by Art Bodner

Glenwright of the refresh to the exterior and interior dining spaces. “We gave it a good clean, that was the first thing.”

In the 2010s, when he was still living in Sydney, Glenwright suggested to his sister that they open a rotisserie chicken place. Seven years ago, Dosiou moved into Noe Valley, and four years later she convinced her brother to also relocate to the neighborhood.

They ended up first opening their downtown cocktail bar Hotel San Francisco in 2017 but had to shutter it at the start of the Covid epidemic in March 2020. (They plan to reopen it in early 2022.) It afforded them time to realize Glenwright’s long-held desire to sell rotisserie chicken.

Initially, the eatery was to open in early summer, but delays in lining up contractors and hiring staff pushed back

that timeline. They had sought a Noe Valley location and settled on the eatery’s name due to the “beautiful village atmosphere” of the neighborhood, explained Glenwright.

Reaction from residents has exceeded their expectations.

“We have been very busy from the start, which is always good. But it comes with operational challenges,” noted Glenwright. “Training comes on the job, and most people are really forgiving. We know Noe Valley so well now, we knew we would be in good hands.”

Village Rotisserie is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For now it is closed Mondays, but the owners say it will likely be open seven days a week in the near future.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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Calendar October 2021

Oct. 1: SCRAP opens its exhibit "RePurposeful: The Art of Collage and Assemblage," with a silent auction. Randall Museum, 199 Museum. Scrap-sf.org.

Oct. 1-29: PILATES BOOTCAMP at the Noe Valley Town Square. Wed. & Fri., 8 am. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Oct. 1-29: Bernal Heights OUTDOOR CINEMA climaxes Oct. 29 with the "Best of Bernal," 7-9:30 pm, at South Slope Cinema, 100 Alemany. BHoutdoorcine.org.

Oct. 1-29: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts Friday JAZZ live-streaming from the shop. 7:30-9 pm. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

Oct. 1-30: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER offers lunches for people over 60, weekdays & Sat. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

Oct. 1-31: Artist Ken Sakatani exhibits paintings at Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez. Email kenneth.sakatani@csun.edu.

Oct. 2-30: Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Oct. 2-30: The Upper Noe Rec Center offers a FAMILY ZUMBA class, Saturdays from 9:30 am. 295 Day. Free with registration: 970-8061; sfrecpark.org.

Oct. 3: ACTION SF hosts a virtual meeting, open to all, 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidarity@gmail.com for the link.

Oct. 3: The Restore the J-Church Workgroup holds a RALLY 2:45 pm at the Square, 3861 24th. restorej@sbcglobal.net.

Oct. 3: The NV Democratic Club KICK-OFF, with guests Scott Wiener, David Chiu, and Rafael Mandelman, is 3 to 5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. Noevalleydemocrats.org.

Oct. 5, 12 & 19: The U.S. Navy Band Southwest Brass Quintet performs a free CONCERT to celebrate Fleet Week. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Oct. 7-23: The LITQUAKE FESTIVAL 2021 features 300 authors in 80 events, online and in-person. For a schedule: litquake.org.

Oct. 8: Folio Books' online BOOK-WORMS Club features Josh Allen's *Only If You Dare: 13 Stories of Darkness and Doom*. 5 pm. RSVP to sign in, foliosf.com; 821-3477.

Oct. 10: Meet Chesa Boudin at a public safety FORUM sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 3-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. Noevalleydemocrats.org.

Oct. 11: ODD MONDAYS features readings by Mia Manansala, Dennis Staples, and Kaitlyn Greenidge. 7-8 pm. Email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.

Oct. 14: Mina Stone introduces *Lemon, Love, and Olive Oil* at a live event. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

Oct. 15-Nov. 31: Cary Friedman shows PHOTOGRAPHS at Edward Jones. Reception Oct. 15, 4:30 pm. 4190 24th. 282-4079.

Oct. 16: ShadowLight theater performs a free SHADOW PLAY, with singers and gamelan music. 7 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com.

Oct. 17: Phoenix Day features citywide BLOCK PARTIES, including local events on Sanchez at Clipper and on Duncan between Church and Sanchez. Noon-5 pm.

Oct. 23: Join a WALKING TOUR, "Valencia Street: Corridor to Colma." Noon. RSVP shaping@foundsf.org.

Oct. 23 & 24: 100 artists exhibit work at Hunters Point Shipyard OPEN STUDIOS. 11 am-6 pm, 451 Galvez. shipyardartists.com.

Oct. 29-31: The OUTSIDE LANDS Music Festival unfolds. Tickets: sfoutsidelands.com.

Oct. 28: Celebrate Día de los Muertos and HALLOWEEN at Mission Community Market, 84 Bartlett. 3-7 pm. 291-3276.

Oct. 30: HALLOWEEN at the Randall Museum features costumes, creepy crafts, and ghoulish games, for ages 2 and up. 10 am-1 pm. 199 Museum Way. Reservations required: 554-9600; randallmuseum.org.

Nov. 4-6: FOLIO BOOKS celebrates its eighth anniversary with a fundraising drive for three charities. 10 am-6 pm. foliosf.com; 821-3477.

Falling into Autumn: The next Noe Valley Voice will be the **November 2021** issue, distributed the first week of November. The deadline is **Oct. 15**. Email calendar@noevalley-voice.com. Events in Noe Valley take priority.

and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Summer Pops Up

By Mazook

THE HEAT IS ON: As all you Noe Valleons know, summertime comes to our quaint little urban village at or around the autumnal equinox—this year on Sept. 22—and lasts until Halloween. Yes, warm days that cool as the fog rolls into our valley.

The Noe Valley Weather Service (NVWS) promises more warm days and cool nights this month. But the NVWS is making no predictions as to our air quality this year, since the fires in Northern California are still threatening our climatological well-being.

If you want a daily report, the NVWS suggests you visit Iqair.com, which will give you air-quality reports and forecasts updated hourly for anywhere in the country. Just search Noe Valley, California, USA. A big thank you to the 16 anonymous contributors to the Noe Valley-specific site.



SLOW MOTION: Another big thank you to the dozens of neighbors who finally succeeded last month in getting approval to make Sanchez Street permanently Slow. Many of them got together at the corner of Sanchez and 26th on Sept. 19, a warm Sunday, to pat themselves on the back for navigating their way through City Hall and the SFMTA for the past year to reach their goal. Bravo also to Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who gave a short speech, for his own steerage, and a shout-out to Jeffrey Tumlin, the city’s director of transportation.

Now the fun will begin. On Sunday, Oct. 17, from noon to 5, there will be, says Slow Sanchez steering committee member Chris Keene, “a block party to celebrate our community’s creating what we think will be a neighborhood treasure.” The party, actually two, will be on Duncan Street from Church to Sanchez and on Sanchez Street from Duncan to Clipper.

Keene says, “The block party will give neighbors the opportunity to mingle, and there will be many activities and entertainment for everyone, including refreshments, Hawaiian music to dance to, and a dance teacher (aloha!), as well as art activities for all ages and street chalking for the kids.” There will also be a “planting table where baby succulents can get their roots.”

A group of volunteers will have a table of souvenirs and will be recruiting residents on Sanchez to create a “street gallery of garage doors,” says Keene. Funding may be needed to put together the artists and materials, and homeowners will be invited to pitch in some bucks to create the promenade of doors.

Also on the agenda is finding volunteers for a sidewalk garden up and down the slow street. “I am actively recruiting neighbors who want to participate in the garden project,” says steering committee member Yuko Shah, “and create something really great for our community.”

The website will get into the details: www.slowsanchez.com.



JEWEL HEIST: It was a rotten Labor Day for Gallery of Jewels at 4089 24th



Who Does This? Thieves targeted Gallery of Jewels at 24th and Castro in the early morning hours of Labor Day. It was the third such break-in since the pandemic started. Photo by Art Bodner

St., near the corner of Castro. At 5:10 a.m., a motor vehicle crashed through the recently installed iron fence protecting the store’s windows, shattering the glass and mangling the fence, as well as causing serious damage to the building.

“What really gets me,” says business owner Bill Hoover, “is the burglars got almost nothing. We take all the jewelry out of the front window as well as the valuable inventory out of the store and put it into a vault.”

That morning, as the store was being red-tagged as “unsafe” and the avalanche of broken glass on the sidewalk was being cleaned up, Hoover vented: “Right now, I am having to deal with two insurance companies over my financial losses in this, the third time this store has been broken into. And this time the serious structural damage...is sure disheartening.”

Because of the damage, the store will be closed “for an indefinite period of time,” he says. “Closing the store permanently is something I am strongly considering at this point.”

Don’t go, Bill! My suggestion is see if you can find a suitable pop-up store in Downtown Noe Valley for the upcoming holidays and beyond.

Another jewelry store, Azil Boutique, at 4010 24th St., next to Moe’s Barber & Beauty, closed last month, apparently a victim of the pandemic.

That small shop was immediately rented by clothes designer Basil Racuk, who also has a store down the street, at 3980 24th (next to Just for Fun), where he creates and displays his primarily leather clothing and accessories.

The new store “will be unisex clothing (i.e., for men and women), like tee shirts, sweats, shirts, and pants,” he says, “and I am going to reinvent the 3980 store to only have women’s designs and accessories.”

Racuk adds, “We will have a grand opening at the 4010 shop on October 9 in the late afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., with a DJ, food, and drinks, and the neighborhood is invited to come for the music, food, and booze, and stay for the style.”

Speaking of style, Lola Herrera’s Art Gallery a few blocks away at 1250 Sanchez will host an exhibit of colorful paintings by acrylic-and-ink-pen artist Nancy Reese called “Brightness in a Year of Darkness.” The opening reception is Oct. 1, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Clipper and Sanchez corner, but the art will be there for at least a month. The store’s hours are noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday

through Sunday.



IT’S ONLY ROCK AND ROLL: There will be a big party in our sister valley, Mill Valley, at the 44th Mill Valley Film Festival (Oct. 7-17), when longtime Noe Valleon Ben Fong-Torres is applauded live and on film in the new documentary *Like a Rolling Stone: The Life and Times of Ben Fong-Torres*. It will be screened on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 5 p.m., at the CineArts Sequoia Theater, located at 25 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley, and then again on Monday, Oct. 11, at 2 p.m., at the Smith Rafael Film Center, at 1118 Fourth St., San Rafael.

The party will be held on Sunday evening Oct. 10, starting at 8 p.m., at the nearby Sweetwater Music Hall at 19 Corte Madera Ave., Mill Valley. If you want to go, book your tickets now, since this party will be sold out.

“This should be fun,” says Fong-Torres, “since we will have some great artists appearing, like Glenn Walters (drummer and vocalist for the Hoodoo Rhythm Devils) and Annie Sampson (a true legend in Bay Area music, who recorded with Elvin Bishop, Taj Mahal, Buddy Miles, Maria Muldaur, Eddie Money, and Country Joe MacDonald, as well as performed with Bonnie Raitt, Boz Scaggs, Otis Clay, Sammy Hagar, Commander Cody, Steve Miller, Nick Gravenites, Clarence Clemmons, Elvis Costello, and the late Jerry Garcia).

“Also on the stage,” he says, “will be *Midnight at the Oasis* singer Maria Muldaur, and David Friedberg (in the heart of the San Francisco sound over the years, best known for contributing vocals, keyboards, electric bass, rhythm guitar, viola, and percussion as a member of Quicksilver Messenger Service, Jefferson Airplane, and Jefferson Starship). And I will be singing too,” says Fong-Torres, “doing some Dean Martin, Bob Dylan, and Elvis songs.”

On a personal note, I went to junior high and high school in Oakland with Ben, and also San Francisco State back in the day. His career as a writer and editor at *Rolling Stone* was portrayed in the movie *Almost Famous*.

Ben, someday you will have to sing some songs for us at the Noe Valley Town Square.



SHORT SHIRTS: Waymo has launched its “robotaxi service” in a few San Francisco neighborhoods, including Noe Valley, although the fancy Jaguars

will still have a live human at the steering wheel. Waymo safe.

On Twitter we learned that “owners of the popular La Lucha Coffee Bar in the Mission are opening a new location in the former Douglas space on Sanchez.” That’s at the 29th Street corner. But we haven’t seen it yet.

Congrats to Noeteca Wine Bar (1551 Dolores at Valley) for Adrian Spinelli’s rave review in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Aug. 27, particularly of their homestyle Brazilian food. Said Spinelli, “Enter the restaurant at lunchtime on any given day,” and see “the diners eating [dishes] like roasted spare ribs with yucca, rice, and beans, or traditional feijoada, the black bean stew loaded with chunks of roasted pork, dried beef, and sausage.”

Congrats also to Noe Valleon Bernadette Melvin for her coffee shop Bernie’s (3966 24th), mentioned on the blog Eater SF last month as one of the “best coffee shops” in San Francisco. Writes Eater SF: “Her strong coffee is made with Spinelli beans, and the spacious benches outside her shop are a solid option for socially-distant sipping.” Spinelli Coffee was the first to open that coffee spot years ago.

Opening officially on Oct. 1 is Cocoon Urban Day Spa, at 3910 24th, in the space once occupied by See Jane Run (which feels like it was here a zillion years ago). The spa has been under construction for the past year and has a large basement area under a now lavishly furnished street-level floor. The spa, which operates two other locations, one in SOMA and another on College Avenue in Oakland, describes itself as an urban sanctuary where “wellness, relaxation, and health are an ongoing lifestyle choice.”

Across the street, a pop-up gallery has been opened by two local artists, Jaime Lovejoy, who is a painter and abstract artist, and Erin Hupp, a ceramicist. In true pop-up fashion, they are renting the space where the French Tulip was for many years at 3903 24th. (The flower shop is now at 3909 24th.) The gallery has been open since Sept. 17 and expects to be there through Oct. 15. So go take a look. It’s open Thursday and Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

And it was nice to see that when Compass Real Estate moved out of its space at 4156 24th, Logopedia Speech and Language Therapy (bilingual English-Spanish) moved in. Speech language pathologist Maribel Serrano Holder, who had been working out of her home, opened the new office in August.

Almost forgot: Kimberly Tom of Eye Q Optometry—known around these parts as “Dr. Tom”—is moving up the hill to 24th and Diamond (4193 24th St.), where Noe Valley Cyclery once presided. Eye Q has been a visible fixture in Noe since 1995. Let’s hope the show-stopping Eye Q holiday window displays will continue.



NOE MOSTLY VOTES: Based on the early tabulations of the San Francisco Department of Elections, 73 percent (12,745) of the 16,312 people registered to vote in Noe Valley voted in the Sept. 14 recall election. And 93.4 percent of them (11,903) voted NO on the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom. (Only 842 voted yes.)

That’s all, you all. Have a happy and safe Halloween. And remember to celebrate Armistice Day on Nov. 11. For the first time in a long time, the U.S. has not been at war somewhere in the world. Ciao. See you here in November. ■

Adult Fiction

Colson Whitehead’s novel *Harlem Shuffle*, set in the 1960s, follows a young man’s foray into neighborhood crime.

In *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen, two generations of a family face crises in 1970s Chicago.

Women of Troy by Pat Barker is a feminist retelling of *The Iliad* in which a former queen of Troy plots revenge on her captors.

Lucy Barton joins her ex-husband on a trip to uncover a family secret, in *Oh William!* —the third book in Elizabeth Strout’s series about a mythical rural town in Illinois.

In *Matrix* by Lauren Groff, a young woman sent to live in an English abbey leads the sisters in a rebellion.

Adult Nonfiction

In *Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, David Graeber and David Wengrow examine the lives of our primitive ancestors and the origins of civilization.

Author Laurie Woolever interviewed the chef’s friends and colleagues for *Bourdain: The Definitive Oral Biography*.

Manifesto: On Never Giving Up is a memoir by Bernardine Evaristo, recounting her childhood in England and how she helped set up the country’s first black women’s theater company.

Eyal Press discusses the often dangerous jobs that society stigmatizes, in *Dirty Work: Essential Jobs and the Hidden Toll of Inequality in America*.

In *Beautiful Country*, Qian Julie Wang tells what it is like to grow up in an undocumented family in America.

Adult eBooks Fiction & Nonfiction

A woman once accused of murder by her neighbors returns to the scene of the crime five years later, in *Such a Quiet Place* by Megan Miranda.

In *The Cellist*, Daniel Silva’s latest thriller featuring art restorer Gabriel Allon, the hero must stop a deadly plot to save democracy.

Neurobiologist Susan R. Berry discusses the nature of perception in *Coming to Our Senses: A Boy Who Learned to See, a Girl Who Learned to Hear, and How We All Discover the World*.

In *What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing*, Bruce D. Perry analyzes the roots of adult behavior.

Adult DVDs

A Korean family starts a farm in 1980s Arkansas in the 2020 film *Minari*, starring Steven Yeun and Yuh-Jung Yoon (who won an Academy Award for best supporting actress last year).

Benedict Cumberbatch stars as a Cold War spy trying to end the Cuban Missile Crisis, in the 2020 thriller *The Courier*.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Class Act by Michael Blake

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Photo courtesy Ron Starr Photography/Starrfoto.com

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Walk Right In!

The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library is open! After a year and a half of closure, the local landmark on Jersey Street opened its doors to patrons on July 20. Current hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

And the good news is the books and films are there too.

We’re sure you’ll want to check out one or all of the titles that Adult Services Librarian Francisco Cardona and Children’s Librarian Catherine Starr have offered *Voice* readers this month (see lists on this page). How about a children’s book about a girl who accidentally becomes a witch? Or one about a real-life sea creature whose white fur and black ears make it look like a bunny? Or your interests may lie in new fiction by Colson Whitehead or Elizabeth Strout, or in Eyal Press’ *Dirty Work*, about the sacrifices made by people working what we call essential jobs in the U.S.

Whatever your picks, you can place them on hold at the San Francisco Public Library website, sfpl.org, and arrange for pickup at Noe Valley or other branches around the city. If you need assistance, call the Noe Valley Branch directly Tuesday through Saturday at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org. Better yet, take a walk over to the Noe Valley Library, at 451 Jersey St. (between Castro and Diamond streets). The staff will be happy to help you find the resources.

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

A man becomes the target of a vengeful drug lord in *Nobody* (2021), starring Bob Odenkirk.

Wonder Woman 1984 stars Gal Gadot as the super-heroine who must save the world from destruction.

In the 2020 Pixar animated film *Soul*, a New York jazz musician becomes trapped between Earth and the afterlife.

Children’s Books Fiction

All We Need, written by Kathy Wolff, illustrated by Margaux Meganck, is an appreciation in verse of all the little things to be thankful for. Ages 3 to 8.

A little girl learns to wear a mask outdoors, in the picture book *Sharing a Smile*, written by Nicki Kramar and illustrated by Ashley Evans. Ages 3 to 9.

Part of the “I Can Read Comics” line, Sergio Ruzzier’s graphic novel *Fish and*

Sun tells a tale about two new friends. Ages 4 to 8.

In *The Perfect Plan* by Leah Gilbert, adventurous Maya decides to build a fort in the forest. Ages 4 to 9.

A girl asks herself what it takes to be a good sister to her little brother, in *Bad Sister* by Charise Mericle Harper with illustrations by Rory Lucey. Ages 8 to 12.

Time Villains, the first volume of a middle-grade series by Victor Piñeiro, features a boy who must find a way to send Blackbeard the Pirate back into his own time. Ages 8 to 12.

A 13-year-old girl visiting her aunt in Italy discovers a book of magic, in *Lilla the Accidental Witch*, written and illustrated by Eleanor Crewes. Ages 8 to 12.

In *Forever This Summer* by Leslie C. Youngblood, Georgie moves to her great

aunt’s town in Louisiana and meets a foster kid who becomes a friend. Ages 9 to 13.

A girl in Barbados tries to keep her father from falling in love with a beautiful, vengeful sea creature, in *Josephine Against the Sea* by Shakirah Bourne. Ages 9 to 14.

Children’s Books Nonfiction

Peter Raymundo shares his fascination with *The Mysterious Sea Bunny*, an inch-long sea slug that crawls upside down and breathes through its—well, you have to read the book. Ages 4 to 7.

Part of the “Jop and Blip Wanna Know” series, *Can You Hear a Penguin Fart on Mars? And Other Excellent Questions* is the clever invention of Jim Benton. Ages 7 to 10.

Elizabeth Shreeve’s picture book *Out of the Blue: How Animals Evolved From Prehistoric Seas* is colorfully illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon. Ages 7 to 10.

The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London’s Poop Pollution Problem, written by Colleen Paeff and illustrated by Nancy Carpenter, tells the story of the man who designed a “sewerage” system that helped end cholera epidemics. Ages 7 to 12.

Part of editor Dave Eggers’ “I, Witness” series, *Accused: My Story of Injustice* is Adama Bah’s account of her 2005 arrest for terrorism. Ages 8 to 14.

Children’s eBooks Fiction & Nonfiction

Figures of speech abound in the picture book *My Monster Moofy*, written by Annie Watson and illustrated by Eric Zelz. Ages 4 to 8.

Jacquie Fisher offers creative projects in *Brick Science: STEM Tips and Tricks for Experimenting With Your LEGO Bricks*. Ages 6 to 12.

A girl moves from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Ga., in *Unsettled*, written by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Soumbal Qureshi. Ages 10 to 13.

Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution, by Judith Neumann and Kristen Joiner, tells how Neumann, paralyzed as a child by polio, fought for disability rights. Ages 10 and up.

Annotations by Noe Valley Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS*

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



LATINX HERITAGE MONTH!

Join the library’s celebration of ¡VIVA! Latinx Heritage Month October 2021, where you can find virtual programs and booklists for children, teens, and adults: <https://sfpl.org/events/special-programs/viva-latinx-heritage-month-2021>.



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Designer Inspired
Garden Residence

2 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$999,000

This designer-inspired garden residence features two spacious bedrooms, one bath, a nicely appointed kitchen, and a spacious living/dining area that opens to an exclusive use private garden patio. There is a roof deck with sweeping views from Twin Peaks to the East Bay, storage, and laundry.

3430 22nd Street

3 BED | 2 BATH | Sold for \$1,700,000

Welcome to the Penthouse. Sophistication and luxury combine to create this urban, entertainer's dream - a visual masterpiece framed by 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, impeccable finishes with custom design throughout. From the European White Oak flooring to the handsome custom walnut cabinetry, no expense was spared during this multi-million dollar renovation.



394 Fair Oaks, Unit 3

2 BED | 2 BATH | Sold for \$1,900,000

Nestled on the coveted tree-lined block of Fair Oaks Street, this gorgeous William Shaughnessy built, 1890's Queen Anne is a masterful mix of vintage and modern. A combination of sophistication and luxury, this stunning residence features a formidable great room with tall ceilings and a secret turret room, perfect for a cocktail lounge, Peloton oasis, extra bedroom or an office with a postcard perfect view!

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