

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Thrillhouse Still A Hideout for Hardcore Fans of Punk Vinyl

15-Year-Old Record Store Spins
History, Danger, and Fun

By Charlotte Kane

If you're in search of a treasured Sex Pistols or Black Flag album to add to your collection, look no further than Thrillhouse Records—the offbeat D.I.Y. record store located where Noe Valley meets Bernal.

I first stumbled upon Thrillhouse on a random city walk on a Sunday in August of last year. Upon entering, I was transported into a dimly lit, slightly grimy 2002 punk-rock utopia. The smell of dust shrouded the store in mystery. The thumping of the Stooges was a little too loud for conversation but perfect for those who wished to peruse the stacks without anyone bothering them.

And perfect for me as I spent the next hour fully absorbed in the world of Thrillhouse: rummaging through cardboard boxes of free records and clothes on the floor, playing Space Invaders, and reading zines about anarchy and sexual liberation. I gazed at the mass of scrappy posters and graffiti scrawled on the walls. Angst-inspired creative expression seemed to be bursting through every crack in the building.

At the register sat Rory, the Sunday cashier. His hair was dyed black and spiked up with hairspray to contrast with freckled cheeks. He was slowly attaching metal spikes to a black leather



Turn It Up. Fred Schrunk finds himself the sole founding member of Thrillhouse Records, the last punk record store in San Francisco, but he is buoyed by a staff of 17 volunteers who keep the show going.

Photo by Art Bodner

jacket with a set of pliers. Next to him sat Fred Schrunk, who looked about 30 years older.

I later learned Schrunk had moved to San Francisco from Minneapolis in the early 2000s and founded Thrillhouse with a group of friends, some musicians. "I'm the only one left of the original group that started it. Everyone else moved to other towns or did other things. It is difficult to spend a lot of time here, but people always come to take other people's place, so it's always been a very fluid, cool crew of people involved."

Before Thrillhouse, Schrunk and his friends frequented Mission Records at Mission and 18th streets.

"It was a really amazing record store. Well, it was a really crappy record

store. But they had a show space in the back and a bunch of punks lived there. It seemed like this magical place to go," said Schrunk. "We would go and hang out no matter who was playing. It was just really fun."

Schrunk continued, "When they closed, we didn't know what to do with ourselves. So we thought we could start our own spot just like that one. So we went on a search for a place."

They opened Thrillhouse Records in 2007 in a storefront at 3422 Mission St., a half block south of 30th Street. There wasn't much room for the store in the beginning because seven people were living in the back.

Schrunk and his friends had no idea

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Tricia Brand Showing Up for Diversity, Equity And Belonging

Expert Could Teach Noe Valley
And Art School a Thing or Two

By Matthew S. Bajko

For two years, Tricia Brand had served as the chief diversity officer of Portland Community College in Oregon. Promoted to the position in 2019, Brand had been working to develop a Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center at the school with support from the American Association of Colleges & Universities.

Then, one day, an executive search firm contacted her with an intriguing offer. The California College of the Arts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Tricia Brand hopes in her new role as head of diversity at California College of the Arts she can help students and staff create a community-wide culture of racial and social inclusion.

Photo by Art Bodner



Wendy Springer holds two of the kittens she's fostering and preparing for adoption by you. That's Polly on the left and Twin One. Either or both are guaranteed to liven up your home and heart.

Photo by Kit Cameron

Wendy's Home For Wayward Kittens

A Dream Come True Means
She's Busy at Kitten Season

By Kit Cameron

Walk up 25th Street from Castro and you are likely to see the sign in a Victorian window: "Sweet foster kittens available for adoption here."

The invitation marks the home of Wendy Springer—and two macaws (ages 41 and 30), three cats, a rambunctious border collie puppy, and, depending on the week, up to six playful kittens needing to be adopted.

As a child, Springer recalls, "I knew people who lived on farms. I would see all these cats that people kept to control rodents in barns, and they were so sick and not being cared for." Right then and there, she told her parents, "When I grow up, I'm going to have Wendy's Home for Wayward Kittens."

After she retired from teaching

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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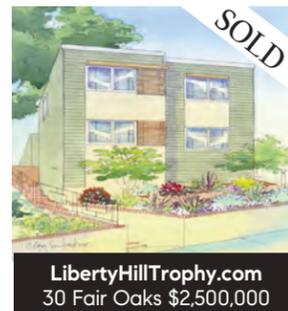
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CRIME SNAPSHOT

After declining for three months, car break-ins spiked in Noe Valley in May, according to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports.

Police recorded 41 incidents in the department's larceny-theft category, which includes thefts of property from vehicles, porches, and other locations.

Twenty-four of the thefts involved smash-and-grabs from locked or unlocked cars. There also were four stripped vehicles and two stolen license plates.

Burglaries, however, decreased in May. Still, there were 17 incidents, 12 of which were home invasions.

The police blotter also showed 10 incidents in the malicious mischief category, ranging from minor vandalism to harassing phone calls. In addition, seven vehicles were stolen during the month. Only one vehicle had been recovered by June 17, 2022, the date the *Noe Valley Voice* collected the data.

A bit of anger was in the air in May. Police responded to four cases of battery (willfully or unlawfully touching someone) and one of aggravated assault (physical assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm). But there were no complaints of robbery or domestic violence during the month.

In total, Noe Valley reported 84 incidents in the 10 categories the *Voice* tracks, the highest number since January.

To see incident locations, go to the city's Digital Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present. It's under Public Safety at Data.sfgov.org. "Noe Valley" in the dataset is an area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

In an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, call the non-emergency line, 415-553-0123.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

Noe Valley Incident Reports to May 2022

Incident Type	Nov2021	Dec2021	Jan2022	Feb2022	Mar2022	Apr2022	May2022
Larceny/Theft	39	23	38	28	24	22	41
Burglary	12	26	18	9	21	25	17
Malicious Mischief	7	9	16	3	8	12	10
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	17	18	16	7	6	7
Assault	2	2	0	3	2	0	5
Robbery	2	1	0	3	1	0	0
Other Misc.	7	7	7	0	0	9	2
Fraud	7	4	8	4	3	4	2
Family D. Violence	7	5	0	0	1	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Totals	96	94	106	67	68	78	84

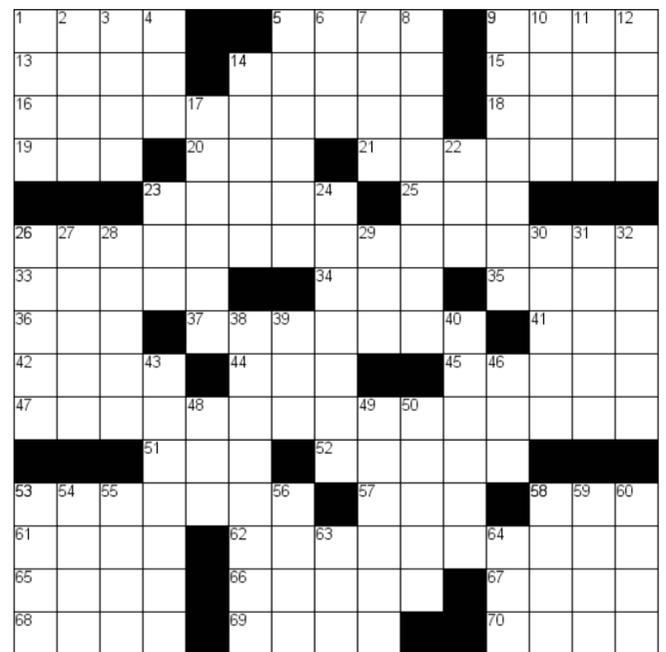
Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for 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 or updates are completed.

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Flatbread

ACROSS

- Flatbread at Mesopotamia Kitchen
- French for "wolf"
- Lightly josh
- Second fairytale word
- Door fastener
- "Sad to say"
- Potato-in-chickpea-flour rollup from Udupi Palace
- Luke Skywalker's Jedi trainer
- Class ____: Voice feature
- Defunct beer named for WA capital, for short
- One screwing up one's face
- "Goodness gracious!"
- Roth ____ account
- Buckwheat creation topped with smoked fish at Birch & Rye
- Gave a false impression
- Praiseful poem
- Good rhyme for "Reno"
- Home of the Braves: Abbr.
- Nursed, as a newborn
- Chase Center official, for short
- Folk singer Joan
- Plaintiff in a nearly 50-year-old case relitigated in 2022
- At just the right time
- Dessert rollup with red fruit at Vive La Tarte
- Car from Korea
- Girl Scout cookie with a geographical name
- Ankle injuries
- Letters before "-1701" on the Enterprise
- Spanish shout of



- Where Noe Valley's Bob Wachter chairs the medicine department
- Rival of a Sadducee
- Cross the street improperly
- Musk in 2022 Twitter news
- Marquis de ____
- Former Russian ruler
- '80s-'90s drama set in SoCal
- Online session starters
- "... man ____ mouse?"
- Brian of ambient music fame
- Dracula* novelist's family
- Spills the beans
- Allow to attack
- Lazy one
- "Good" cholesterol
- Choreographer Cunningham
- Get the better of
- Checking account
- come-on
- Citified music format
- Miler Sebastian ____
- Tentacled *Spider-Man* meanie
- CNN host Fareed
- Powerful DC lobby
- Nintendo Switch predecessor
- Ill will
- Community fitness centers, for short
- Email annoyance
- Window glass
- "Phooey!" from Charlie Brown
- Draped Delhi dress
- Cousin of a Tony award
- Ache (for)
- "Windows of the soul"
- Miss identification?
- Member of a BPOE lodge

Solution on Page 22
Find more Crosswords at noevalleyvoice.com

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LETTERS

Keep Riding the J-Church

Editor:
 Proposition A, a massive Muni infrastructure bond, failed to gain enough support from voters to pass in the June 7 election. This is the first time an SF Muni bond has failed to pass since 2005. A likely factor in the defeat was the erosion of public trust in SFMTA leadership. Under the cover of the pandemic, the agency cut back popular lines like the J-Church service to downtown, and then sought to make the cut permanent without adequate public outreach. In fact, Restore the J Workgroup did more outreach to riders than Muni did, and we found overwhelming popular support for restoring the J. Fortunately, the SFMTA Board of Directors agreed with us and unanimously voted to restore J-Church service to downtown in December 2021.

On the eve of the June 7 election, SFMTA director Jeff Tumlin made his case in favor of Prop. A to the Noe Valley Democratic Club. But instead of demonstrating that he had learned from his error, Mr. Tumlin stunned the group by stating that the failed J-Church "pilot" was something he was most proud of. This service cut, which imposed hardships on the most vulnerable riders (such as seniors, people with disabilities, women traveling alone, and children going to school), is nothing to be proud of. Many riders who had always voted for Muni bonds in the past voted "no" or abstained on Prop. A. SFMTA leadership should be held accountable for the loss of public trust that led to Prop. A's rejection.

Kathy Setian, Coordinator
 Restore the J Workgroup



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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
 Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor
 Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Olivia Boler, Kit Cameron, Gabe Castro-Root, Suzanne Herel, Liz Highleyman, Kala Hunter, Jeff Kaliss, Charlotte Kane, Doug Konecky, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Tim Simmers, Megan Wetherall, Julie Zigoris

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

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

ACCOUNTING
 Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION
 Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION
 Jack Tipple

WEB GURU
 Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES
 Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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A Mother's Story

By BJ Droubi

The Voice thanks longtime Noe Valley resident and business owner BJ Droubi for allowing us to reprint the Mother's Day message she posted on Facebook in May.

I have a mother's story that I want to share in these times when abortion rights are under threat.*

Most of you are aware that I am very close to my two daughters, of whom I am inordinately proud, Christina and Lamisse.

You may not know that I also had a son, Bryan, who was born in 1969, out of wedlock, as it was called in those days. I was a beginner stewardess with American Airlines at the time. I had only \$500 in my bank account, and under the airline rules I was fated to lose my job as soon as the pregnancy made me weigh more than 120 pounds. The better-off stewardesses flew to Japan for abortions, since the procedure was very difficult to get in America, but I didn't have those kind of financial resources.

American law required me to give birth. I was incredibly lucky that my gynecologist offered me a job as a nanny in exchange for room and board during my pregnancy, as otherwise I would have been destitute. He committed to finding my child a good home.

When Bryan was born, I was given anesthesia to sleep through his birth, so that I wouldn't bond with him. He was whisked away. I was told he was adopted by a Christian couple in Sacramento and that I would not be able to be in touch with him before his 18th birthday. All adoptions were held secret in those days.

When Bryan's 18th birthday approached, I hired a private detective to find him. I was devastated to discover that he had died of childhood leukemia a year previously, at age 17 and 9 months, and I was never able to meet him.

Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett has suggested adoption eliminates the need for abortion. Giving a baby up for adoption is traumatic, and the grief for the lost child never goes away. Even though Bryan's life was hidden from me, I never forgot him and always mourned the loss. This endless pain is what Barrett promises mothers forced unwillingly to give birth.

Above is a picture of Bryan at his make-a-wish cruise. His adoptive family called him Buzz. Alongside it is a picture of me in 1968, the year I got pregnant.

BJ Droubi has lived and worked in Noe Valley for five decades, not only as the founder of BJ Droubi & Company but as the representative of the Easter Bunny at annual egg hunts in Douglass Playground. She raised two daughters on 24th Street above her office. Lamisse now has a successful real estate practice on 24th Street (Generation Real Estate), and Christina lives in the Sacramento area and owns a security business with her husband. Today, BJ lives in Glen Ellen with her husband, Malcolm, and five chickens and an art studio. They have an apartment on 24th Street, where you can see the ceramic butterflies made in their art studio.



*On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, which had protected women's right to choose for almost 50 years.

Congratulations, Eagle Scout Cash Bolos!

Lifelong Noe Valley resident Cash Bolos has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Only about 3 percent of all Scouts put in the hard work to complete all of the requirements and accomplishments that are necessary to attain this rank.

Cash earned his Eagle rank in the spring of 2021, but the formal Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at Scout Troop 333 for him and a half dozen other Scouts took place on May 15, 2022.

Cash started his scouting career in 2012 with Cub Scout Troop 88 at St. Philip's in Noe Valley, and moved on to Scout Troop 333 in 2016. He is a junior at Riordan High School. His mother and grandmother own Small Frys children's store in Noe Valley.

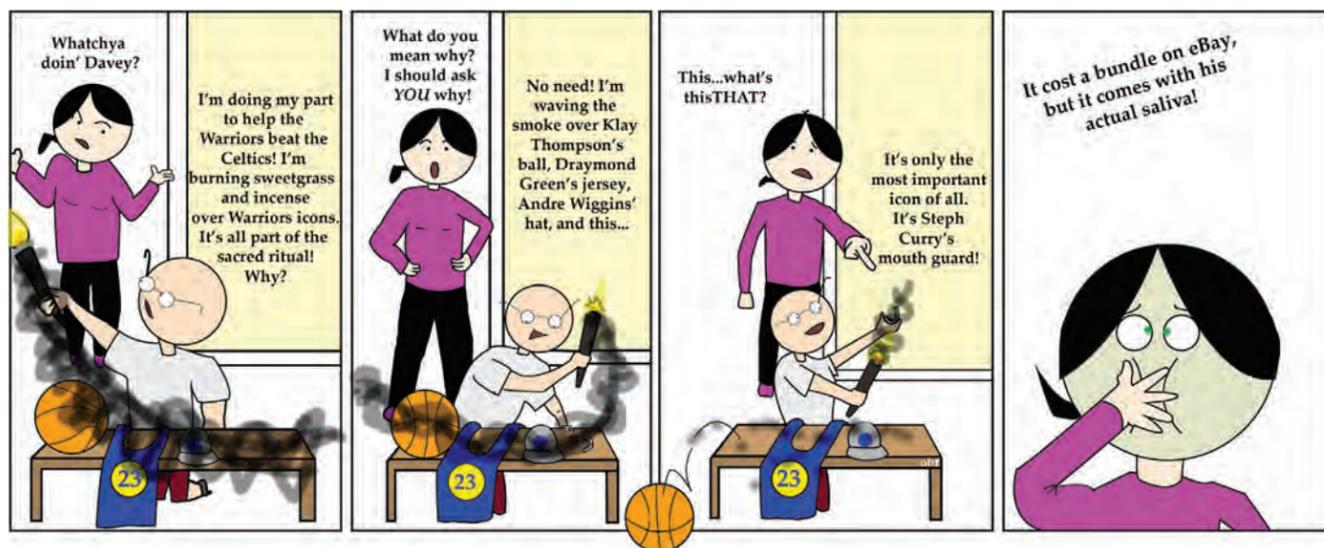
As a final step in the Eagle process, Scouts do a service project for their community. For his Eagle Project, Cash chose the trail in Golden Gate Park that links Fulton Avenue with Heroes Grove, home to the monument to San Franciscans who saw service in World War I. Cash cleared and widened an existing, mainly overgrown path, then resurfaced and landscaped it. He planned the project and supervised a number of other Scouts who volunteered to help him.

Not satisfied with this accomplishment, Cash did a second Eagle Project. As he was planning the first one, Andy Stone of Rec & Park mentioned that Golden Gate Park needed Owl Boxes for owls to nest. Cash then researched, designed, and built not one, but several. Using a table saw and various tools borrowed from his grandfather, he cut, trimmed, drilled, and assembled all of these over his Christmas holiday in 2020. ■



To complete his Eagle service projects, Cash Bolos made owl shelters for use in Golden Gate Park. Photo and text by Bill Yenne

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



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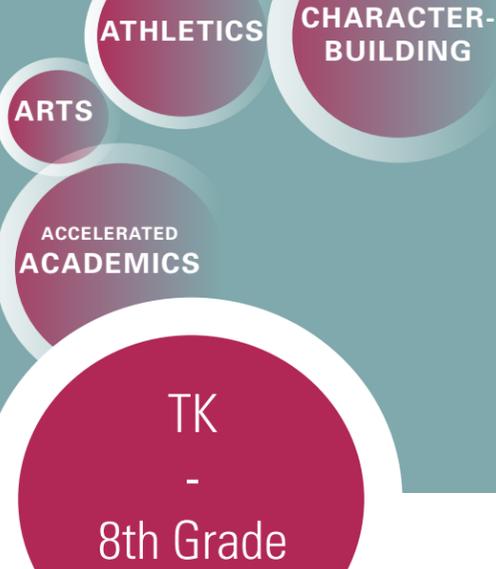
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SFMTA.com/ServiceChanges



Thrillhouse— San Francisco's Punk Rock Treasury

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what they were doing at first. “None of us had ever had any experience running a record store or any kind of business, but it didn’t really matter because our friends would come and hang out with us. We played shows and it was just a lot of fun.”

Gradually, though, they decided they should move out and turn the space into a real record store that could attract customers. “Before, it was just like our friends’ bands’ music on the shelves. There was almost never a stranger who walked in the door,” said Schrunk.

Today the shop is a trove of both new and used records—mostly punk, but it also has metal, classical, jazz, oldies, rock, soul, reggae, hip hop, and soundtracks. The store will buy your old records or cassettes. “We mostly focus on vinyl but have a small but decent amount of tapes, CDs, movies, shirts, zines, and pins.” (See ThrillhouseRecords.com.)

The Basement Shows

Rory, who’s just finished his junior in high school, has been a volunteer for Thrillhouse since last summer.

He says he has been a punk rocker his whole life. “I grew up on the shows. I found this place in like fifth grade. I didn’t even know it was a punk rock store because that was the only music around me. I was like, ‘Oh, this is just music.’”

Rory also plays in a punk band called The Witless. The Witless is one of the many local bands that play shows in the basement of Thrillhouse, which Rory describes as “really sketchy. There’s a pole downstairs and if you don’t duck your head, you’ll bash your head against it. It’s scary but it’s fun. It gives you a little bit of an adrenaline boost.”

Schrunk adds, “You’re risking your life a little bit more than you do for a regular show.”

The Thrillhouse gigs are typically free. Rory likes that. “I’d rather have a better crowd than make, like, \$100 off a show.”

Charging for shows could create tension, especially when a band doesn’t draw a big enough crowd to make enough money to pay for the event. If the shows are free, “the only people who will get bummed by not enough people showing up are the bands,” says Schrunk. “There’s nobody there holding a clipboard being like, ‘You guys are killing me!’”

Rory got his first solo show after playing acoustic guitar at one of the store’s open mic shows. The open mics range from spoken-word poetry to



Fred Schrunk, one of the Thrillhouse founders, surveys his vast library of punk—and just about every other kind of music. Photo by Art Bodner

stand-up comedy acts to punk. “We had one dude who just had a synth machine and was messing around for five minutes,” said Rory. Open mics usually happen on the second Monday of the month.

Besides shows, Thrillhouse has hosted Narcotics Anonymous meetings, book readings, and movie screenings. The store hopes to be a welcoming space for people to host their own events. “If we can make it happen, and you need a place to do something cool, we will just say yes,” says Schrunk.

A Blast From the Past

Thrillhouse is the last punk record store in San Francisco. “It’s the one spot in the city where people can actually go and learn about more music,” Rory claims. “If you go to Amoeba [on Haight Street], there’s such a wide variety of music that there’s not really many people that you can go to and be like, ‘Hey, I like this band. Do you got any recommendations or stuff like that?’”

According to Schrunk, in order to survive gentrification and the digitalization of music, many record stores have shifted to catering to wealthier customers—which means more expensive records. But not Thrillhouse. Prices for new albums are in the \$15 to \$20 range. The used record prices start at zero.

The store is run by 17 volunteers. Each works one or two four-hour shifts

a week, allowing for a stream of different faces behind the counter. They keep the shop open noon to 8 p.m. most days.

“It’s a place for people to hang out instead of just being a store,” Rory says. “It’s like a place that people can go to and not [just] have the objective

to buy something.”

Schrunk agrees. “Nobody that’s involved with this place is here because of the money. They’re here because they love the project. They love what role we play in making San Francisco an exciting place for punk music and underground culture.” ■



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Tricia Brand Shares a Few First Impressions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

based in San Francisco was creating a new position of vice president of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), and Brand was asked if she was interested in applying for it.

The opportunity to be named to such an inaugural academic position was something Brand couldn't pass up. The Huntsville, Ala., native put her name forward for the post. "To me, it felt like such a unicorn of a position, to be honest," recalled Brand, 49, of the chance to launch a new college campus cabinet-level office that reported directly to a school's president.

In late December, the arts college announced Brand as its first-ever DEIB vice president. To give her and her husband, Paul Brand, time to relocate to the Bay Area, the school set her start date as April 1.

"In Tricia, we have found an innovative leader who brings the experience and vision to serve as a catalyst for cultural transformation and educational advocacy," said Stephen Beal, president of the 115-year-old arts college. "As CCA unifies our campus in San Francisco and continues to deepen our connections with the Bay Area creative community, I am excited to work with our new vice president as a partner and collaborator in our work to make ongoing, substantive change for a more equitable society."

The private arts school this year moved the last of its faculty, students, and staff out of its campus in Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood. It is consolidating all of its operations on the campus it has been building in San Francisco's Design District at the foot of Potrero Hill.

In her new position, Brand hopes to foster thoughtful conversations on campus examining the connections between the arts, emerging research, and academics, and societal change, cultural immersion, and gender and sexuality justice.

"There is so much here in California. I feel like California is the nexus of so much related to, hopefully, progress in this country. It is messy but meaningful," said Brand during an interview in late June at Martha & Bros. coffee-house on Church Street. "To me, that was part of the appeal in taking on this position."

Settling into Noe Valley

Married 23 years, Brand and her husband moved in late March into a two-bedroom apartment in Noe Valley with a back yard for their miniature schnauzer, Rosey. The 22-month-old puppy is named after Portland, known as the Rose City.

"We wanted to be in a place that feels like a real community. We felt that," said Brand of the neighborhood. "Plus, it is dog friendly. There were a lot of rentals that were dog friendly here. We had difficulties finding a place in other neighborhoods in having a dog, which I thought was interesting."

While they looked at places in the East Bay and on the Peninsula, where housing costs are less expensive, Brand said they opted for San Francisco so she could be close to the college's campus. As a one-car household, Brand also wanted easy access to public transportation.

"We recognize San Francisco can be a bit of a cultural shock, even coming



Though she's still exploring what more inclusion will mean for both California College of the Arts and Noe Valley, Tricia Brand and husband Paul can confirm that the neighborhood at least has a fair amount of dogs and restaurants.

Photo by Art Bodner

from a place like Portland, in terms of affordability," she said.

As for landing in Noe Valley, they loved how centrally located it was within the city and liked the easy access to freeways for trips out of town.

"Frankly, it is hard to not think about the experience of what it is like to say you got to live in San Francisco, not near San Francisco, not around San Francisco, but in the city," she said.

The couple is still getting to know their new home but already have a few favorite neighborhood dining spots. Topping the list are Mr. Digby's on 24th Street, and Toast and Eric's on Church Street.

"I picked up the *Voice* to figure out what this neighborhood is," said Brand.

Proximity to 'Whiteness'

As a Black woman married to a white man, Brand says she has encountered a range of attitudes and experiences in the different states they have lived. Her experiences can differ also depending on whether she is out in public alone or with her husband.

After completing her undergraduate and graduate studies at Midwest and East Coast schools, she found herself living in the Southwest and on the West Coast with vastly smaller populations of African Americans.

"From the time that Paul and I made the transition from east to west of the country, my experience is often feeling as though I am integrating spaces, which to me, in this millennium, is bananas. It is not entirely what I expected," she said.

She has experienced "blatant and sometimes more insidious forms of racism," said Brand, while also having a "proximity to codes of whiteness" when she is with her husband.

"When I am with my husband, there is not a sense of otherness. When you are partnered with someone, that also sends a specific type of signal," said Brand. "It is one of the experiences in married life since we moved out west that I have been very conscious about."

Battle Fatigue

As a person of color, Brand said she deals with what has been termed racial battle fatigue. It refers to the various psychophysiological symptoms that racial minorities can suffer due to being oppressed and having to be super-aware of how they conduct themselves in society.

"When I am alone, yeah, there are those times, not so much in Noe Valley yet, but in general there becomes an awareness of always a hyper-vigilance," she said.

She pointed to one incident she wrote about on a blog for the Portland college that occurred during a professional event she co-hosted pre-Covid at a posh apartment complex in the city's downtown. After the gathering officially ended, Brand and a volunteer who was also Black were relaxing on an outdoor deck as they waited for a resident of the building to return from walking her dog.

Other non-residents also were mingling on the deck, but a security guard for the building decided to inquire if Brand and the volunteer lived there. They explained they were waiting for a resident to return, yet the security guard told them they had to leave and escorted them out of the building. The level of disrespect, the feeling of being infantilized, embarrassment, and humiliation, I can't even begin to explain this," said Brand. "I shared this with my community to explain my sense of belonging is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Tricia Brand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

always conditional.”

Those conditions can be difficult to discern, said Brand, from needing a chaperone or dressing a certain way to dating a certain person.

“All these things become part of one’s conditional sense of belonging and safety. That is what creates the fatigue over time,” she explained.

“With my transition to Noe Valley, I recognize, given the composition of my family, it may provide me with a little bit of an additional sense of belonging. When I am by myself, that hyper-vigilance doesn’t go away, because I have had a lifetime of experiences

where I felt othered.”

On top of her racial identity, Brand said gender dynamics play a part in how she feels treated by society. Her experiences navigating the world as a woman of color “is a big part of why,” she said, she chose her professional career.

“At times I don’t feel safe because of my gender or my race or both,” said Brand. “Why I chose a life supporting students in higher education is it seemed such a transformational place and space.”

Looking for Young Partners

Brand earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and educational foundations from Washington University in St. Louis. She then earned a master’s in educational psychology from Rutgers

University.

She and her husband, who works in accounting, moved out west when she was hired in 2006 as director of student support services at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Lewis & Clark College in Oregon then hired Brand in 2011 as its interim dean of students and director of multicultural affairs, leading the couple to relocate to Portland.

In 2014, Brand first joined Portland Community College as an associate dean of student development. She also served as the college’s interim dean of student development and deputy Title IX coordinator.

As part of her duties at the California College of the Arts, Brand has been tasked with relaunching its Center for Art and Public Life and working with community-based organizations in determining the next generation of partners for the center. Over its 25-year history with CCA, the center has assisted middle and high school students to find pathways to careers in the arts, she noted.

“My role is not only to be supporting the college’s operationalizing all their goals around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. I get to help reimagine one of our two public-facing centers that has a community focus,” said Brand.

Art and Accountability

Although not an artist herself, Brand always has appreciated art and its transformative power on society.

“Art will save us,” she said. “I really do feel art in many ways can save us if we allow it.”

The history of the arts ties into her DEIB work, Brand noted, since women and people of color for too long were ignored by mainstream arts museums,

dealers and collectors. Even at the college level art was primarily viewed and taught through a white, male European lens, she said.

“I find that to be such an amazing space to be doing DEIB work,” said Brand of now working for an arts college. “Do they need it? Yeah, because so much of our understanding of what is valuable, what has the greatest value around art and design comes from practices that were very exclusionary and focused on the dominant culture.”

Art history, noted Brand, “is almost exclusively focused around Western and European art. Who was given an opportunity to produce that art? It wasn’t women. It wasn’t folks from other continents.”

Brand has given herself a three-month “discovery phase” to learn about the arts college and its culture on campus. The student body is diverse in terms of gender and race. Roughly 30 percent are international students, with most coming from Asian countries.

Within six months she aims to create a framework for how to align DEIB with the college’s values. By this time next year, Brand expects to have a strategic equity plan in place to implement that framework.

“Unless you create some kind of development and accountability so the attitudes change, and not just the language of equity and diversity is present but you see it reflected in the decision-making and attitudes, there will always be a gap,” said Brand.

“When you recognize that faculty, students, and community members have a different slate of experiences than what you believe is foundational to your values, you have to start looking under the hood and examining it more deeply. That is my job.” ■

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Burned-Out Streetlights , city owned (wooden poles call PG&E)		311
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org	415-554-6968
District 8 Community Liaison for Crime Prevention	Dave.Burke@sfgov.org	
Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)		415-695-2017
Homeless Services	Street Outreach Services (SOS)	415-355-2250
Lost or Injured Animals	Animal Care and Control	415-554-6364
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services	sfmayor.org	415-554-7111
NERT (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams)		415-970-2022
Parking Enforcement	DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
PG&E	Gas or electrical issues	1-800-743-5000
Pothole Repairs	potholes@sfdpw.org	415-554-5810
Recycling	Recology San Francisco (free pickup bulky items)	415-330-1300
Rent Board San Francisco	phone counseling	415-252-4600
Sewer Problems, Overflows		415-695-2096
SFMTA or Muni	Call 311 or email MTABoard@sfmta.com	415-701-2311
Tree Planting	urbanforestry@sfdpw.org	415-554-6700
24th Street Community Benefit District (Noe Valley Association)		415-519-0093
Water Leaks, Water Pressure		415-554-3289

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—John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2006), U.S. administrator and economist

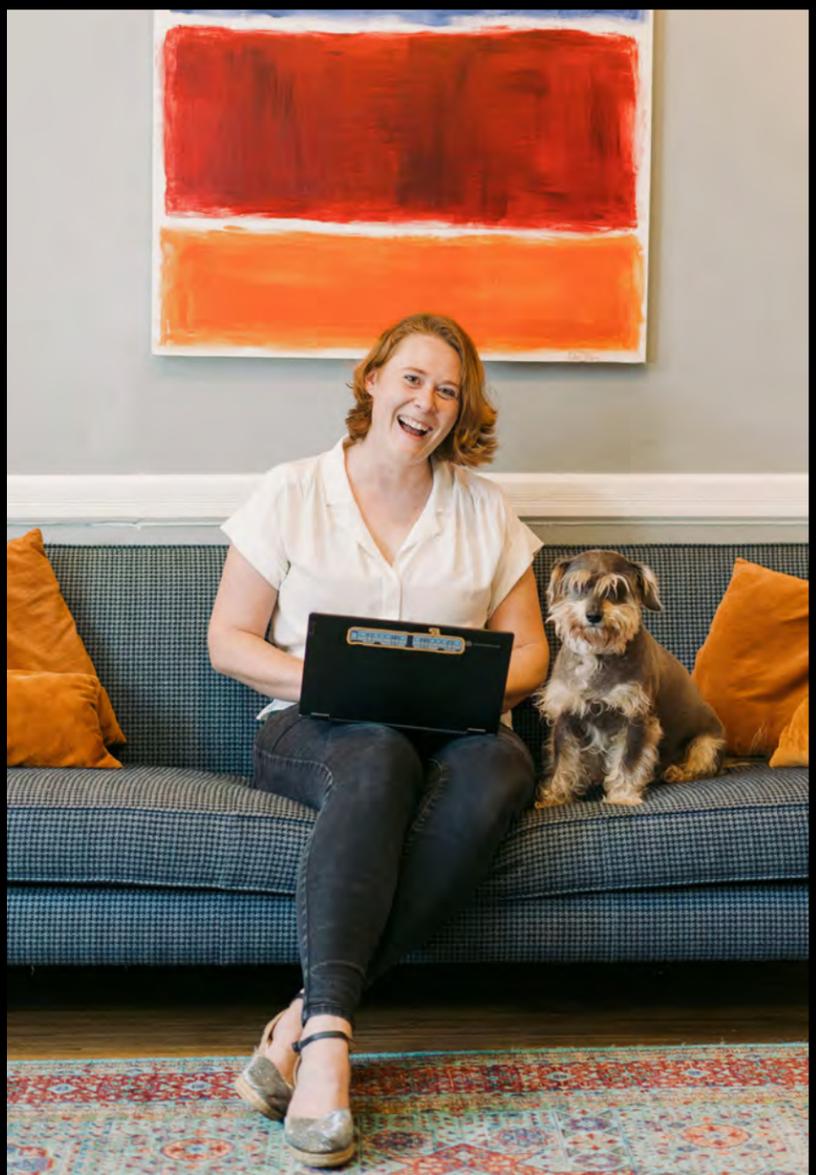
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Wendy Has Kittens to Adopt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kindergarten in 1997 to start a family with husband Dan, she achieved that ambition. The couple's two sons, Michael, born in 1997, and Robert, born in 1998, were also a part of the kitty patrol.

Springer fostered before she was married, she says, and "I have been doing fostering non-stop since my youngest son was three, because I wanted my two boys to learn how to be kind." Over 25 years she has fostered hundreds of kittens.

She started with the SF/SPCA (sfspca.org) in 1990, and in 2004 began her commitment to Toni's Kitty Rescue (toniskittyrescue.org), a "kitty foster" program run with verve and energy by Toni Sestak since its foundation in 2003.

Through Toni's, cats and kittens picked up off the streets by San Francisco Animal Care and Control come to foster parents such as Springer for nursing care.

Springer discovered she had quite the knack. "My true specialty is ill and failure-to-thrive kittens," she said.

Two of her own cats, Lionel and Lisette, siblings both age 4, came to her under such circumstances. "They were foster cats, both terribly ill," Springer said. "Lisette almost died four times. After caring for them intensely, I adopted them."

The boys also helped raise the kittens to adoptable age. When he was 3½, Robert insisted he learn to bottle-feed a baby kitten, after observing SFACC volunteers. He balked only when told that a mother cat licks her baby's bottom to encourage urination. "I'm not doing that!" he shouted. But he was back on board when told he could use a tissue instead.

Boom Year for Babies

The need for foster parents is particularly critical this month, Springer says. "There was an explosion of kittens this year" that was "mind-boggling." She



Wendy Springer says her dog Georgia, may she rest in peace, "raised hundreds of kittens," including this foster kitty, Walter. "Walt especially liked dogs. He went on to live with an older, very sweet pitbull," says Springer.

Photo courtesy Wendy Springer

notes, "Over a weekend, volunteer foster homes may get 20-plus kittens in sibling groups of two to four."

Toni's Kitty Rescue's website promises "that having little kittens around makes you smile inside and out!" Springer can attest to that. They are, she says, "so sweet and appealing."

To become a foster parent, one only need take an orientation class at SFACC (no charge) and apply online to Toni's for whatever commitment of time (once a year may be enough) and kitty grouping (from a couple of kittens

to a mom and her family) you want to make. The rescue buys food and pays the bills.

Springer says foster volunteers typically get kittens "who are eating on their own [but who] may need a little practice with a litter box. They need to get up to 1.8 pounds, at which point they get vaccinated and spayed. Then [they] go back to the shelter and up for adoption."

But most of Springer's foster kitties are adopted directly from her. "One of my best skills is matching kittens with adopters. I feel so happy about it. Even if I love that kitten, I feel really good about placing them."

She tells new adopters, "More than the money or the time, this is a 15-year commitment. This will be a member of your family." To those who may have pet allergies ("I was allergic to horses"), she advises, "Take allergy shots if that's what it takes."

Socializing Essential

A typical day for Springer starts at 6 a.m., when she feeds and waters her charges, and weighs and examines them for any signs of illness. She also makes a twice-monthly visit to SFACC to get them wormed and vaccinated, if they're ready. She is constantly replenishing food and water and, crucially, socializing the kittens to people.

She has the help of neighborhood children who come to play with the energetic little critters, and "people can drop by and visit anytime." (Her address is 4218 24th.) The goal is to have the opposite of the shy, under-the-bed cat leaving with a new parent.

The best part? "At the end of the day, I love to sit on my couch, with two, three, or four of them sitting in my lap, playing with my hair." She adds, "I love dogs and I love cats, but my favorite animal in the whole world is a kitten." ■



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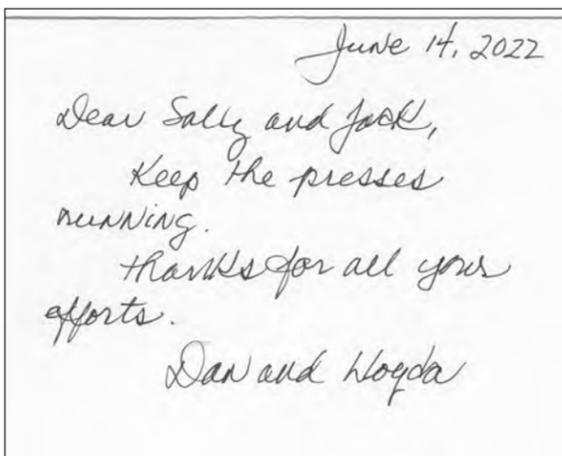
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John Odell Opened A Shoebox

Inside Was His Parents' Wartime Love Story

By Richard May

Longtime Noe Valley resident John Odell was casting about for something to occupy his time while recuperating from hip surgery six years ago when he remembered the shoeboxes of letters he had found while cleaning out his parents' Long Island home in 2003.

There were more than 700 of them, written by his parents, Virginia and Elmer Odell, from 1939 to 1944.

Inside those shoeboxes, John Odell said, he found a story of history, memoir, and love.

From his home of over 40 years on Hoffman Avenue, Odell began organizing and editing the correspondence.

Last year, he published *Elmer and Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters*.

"This is not your folksy, nostalgic, family war-letters memoir," Odell said. "I was surprised how funny they were, and how good their writing was."

Odell, 77, knows a thing or two about a good story. He spent more than 20 years in broadcast news at KPIX-TV and KGO-TV, earning seven Emmys, before leaving to teach broadcasting at City College of San Francisco.

Primarily a videotape editor, he also wrote, produced, and reported.

Odell said he learned a lot about his parents while reading the letters.

During his childhood, "they were my parents, not my entertainers. I'd never had the occasion to read their writing before, and they didn't have to write much after the war."

No one writes letters anymore, he said. "I think what's sad about today is our writing on email is ephemera. There are no physical artifacts."

"Also, our wars are distant and, although covered by media, we don't have a draft [compulsory military service], so we're detached in a way," Odell said. "The level of involvement by our citizens was far, far greater during World War II."

Odell was so inspired by his parents' writings he is working on a second book, *Roosevelt, New York: Stories of an American Family*.

Budding Love and Careers

Elmer Odell and Virginia Schill went to the same high school but came from different sides of the Long Island Railroad tracks. Virginia's family lived in a spacious home in the well-off town of Hempstead, Elmer's family in a rented cottage in Roosevelt, N.Y., a working-class village next door.

They didn't really know each other until the summer after graduation, and then they were separated. She went off to study journalism at Syracuse University, and he stayed on Long Island.

That's when "Ginny" and "El" began writing.

At Syracuse, Virginia Schill became editor of the student paper and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Soon she signed on as a reporter at the *Nassau Daily Review Star*. Elmer Odell got a job as a teller and eventually joined the Army Air Corps.

Their letters reflect the love that was blossoming between them.

On Feb. 12, 1942, Ginny wrote El, "Now, I'm even more sure you're wonderful." El answered, "I got your Valentine and, honey, it was the sweetest, most thoughtful thing a man could

From Virginia – December 11, 1941 1:20 p.m.

Dearest El,

So many things have happened since Saturday night that I hardly know which is my life and which are those things very much related to but yet outside of my everyday routine. War! First Japan—and all its implications and losses right away—then Germany & Italy today. [When the US declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy subsequently reacted by declaring war on the US.] You begin to be quite confused. I don't know—trying to keep my mind on my work, school and the like, seems to be burying your head and being quite blind—but when I think about the war, I want to do something and am quite frustrated—because I can't do anything. Efforts to keep balanced must be huge—at least I can't think about them all without school being thrown into the corner in regard to comparative importance.

I don't mean I want to leave—as so many are foolishly doing, or thinking about. But finishing will take concentration I'm not sure I'm capable of. When Japan attacked Hawaii Sunday, I was studying Shakespeare for an hour exam Monday. Imagine—with tales of destruction of American lives and property, I had to read Shakespeare! Believe me, it wasn't easy.

Love, Ginny

From Elmer – December 10, 1942 7:40 p.m.

Dearly Beloved—

Honey, if you saw me now, I don't think you would know me. You see, yesterday I got a G.I. haircut. My hair is approximately 1/2 inch long. It's kind of chilly and it does not look so hot but boy is it convenient. No trouble keeping it combed and it dries fast after a shower.

Dearest, right here on post there is, in my mind, one of the major tragedies of the war. On the highest hill in the camp, in the midst of a grove of locust trees is a house, the like of which I have always dreamed of owning. It's a brick affair with white clapboards on the second floor and a large chimney at each end and it stands majestically overlooking the beautiful countryside. The government bought it when they took over this section and it is about to be demolished. Whenever I look at it, empty and forlorn I think of how unhappy someone must have been to leave it, and it makes me hate Hitler all the more. I hope that someday you and I can live in a house like it, somewhere on a similar hill, and we can be together forever and not have our happiness interrupted by another war.

All my love—El

Published with author's permission from *Elmer & Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters* (Quickfoot Books, April 2021).

ever receive."

There was loneliness, too, of course. Ginny wrote, "Every time I see a beautiful sunset, I think of you and wish you could see it. I wish you could see it with me."

Dispatches From the Front

One day, on the aforementioned Long Island Railroad, El saw a soldier in uniform with second lieutenant bars and knew that's what he wanted to be. When he saw a photo of the new P-51 Mustang fighter, he knew what he wanted to do: become a pilot.

Ginny and El married at Gilbert Field in Winterhaven, Fla., in October 1943. In December, Elmer shipped out to Europe.

He would go on to pilot more than 60 bombing missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

All the while, the couple's letters continued.

They both worried about the war. Once, Elmer almost didn't make it. He wrote to Ginny about this on March 18, 1944:

"It is only by the grace of God you are not a widow tonight. On the mission today, the flagman gave us the high sign. Everything was going fine until we got about halfway down the runway. Wham! My plane blew a tire. I cut off all the switches, held the stick back, and closed my eyes. When I opened them, the nose of my plane was in a chicken coop. Two English farmers were standing there. One stepped forward and asked, 'I say, can we do anything?' I couldn't help but laugh."

A Return to Civilian Life

When the war ended and El returned to Ginny on Long Island, their letters stopped.

He got his B.A. and ran a business. Ginny, like most women of the Greatest Generation, gave up her job and became a housewife.

The couple produced four children in

five years, including John, the oldest.

After the kids went off to college, Ginny earned her master's degree and returned to the high school where she had met the love of her life, this time to teach.

A happy ending. ■

Elmer & Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters is available in paperback for \$19.50 at Folio Books, 3957 24th St. John Odell will be reading from his book at an Odd Mondays event set for Nov. 7. Find out more about the book at <https://elmerandvirginiaibook.com/>.



John Odell (above) brings the history of America's entry into the second world war, as well as the drama and intimacy of his parents' lives, into sharp focus in his memoir *Elmer & Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters*. Photos courtesy John Odell

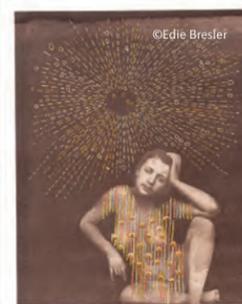
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How Does Your Garden Grow? If you live in Noe Valley, you can find color anywhere, as on this Church Street garage door.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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What Can You Expect In Today's Market?

Home prices have skyrocketed over the past two years, and if you're a buyer or seller in today's market, you're probably asking yourself: will they continue the same growth path or will home prices fall? We have seen the number of sales decline in the past few weeks, and the numbers of active listings and price reductions increase particularly in the condo market. When an overheated market cools, the change is typically gradual and does not mean the market is weak by any normal standard. Experts like Zelman and MBA are forecasting ongoing appreciation, just at a decelerated pace. In other words, prices are forecasted to keep climbing, but at a slower rate. Let's connect so you can get the full picture of what's happening with prices in our local market and to discuss your buying and selling goals.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Market Could Be Calming

By Corrie M. Anders

A Noe Valley home with a seesaw past sold in May for close to \$8 million.

Perched on a Duncan Street hillside, the residence was one of just 10 homes that closed escrow during the month, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

Still, as May's most expensive sale, it helped push the average single-family home sale price to \$4.2 million.

Meanwhile, residential shoppers opting for less expensive housing purchased 11 condominiums, at an average cost of \$1.5 million.

Buyers also signed contracts on seven apartment buildings, of two to four units each. Those averaged \$2.1 million.

Despite the lofty prices—and small sample sizes—there were signs that Noe Valley's high-flying real estate



With an arresting façade and 6,000 square feet of living space, this five-bedroom home on upper Duncan Street attracted a bid of \$7.8 million.

market might be moderating, according to our local expert, Corcoran President Randall Kostick.

"People are getting pickier," he said.

Buyers took more time to decide on properties and were more restrained in how much they offered. Kostick noted that some even tried to get out of their contracts. "They were wanting to get their money back."

Still, it's too early to tell whether the manic activity of the past four months is over and prices have peaked.

A Home With Peaks and Valleys

The choosiest buyer in May had to be the one, or ones, who purchased the house on Duncan Street, often touted as a "palatial masterpiece" or a "magnificent crown jewel." They likely pondered the mansion's dramatic exterior, as well as its unusual sales history.

The home, located on a hill in the 600 block of Duncan near Newburg Street, was built in 2007 and sold the following year for \$5,819,000—the highest price paid for a Noe Valley home since the *Voice* started charting sales in 1999.

In 2014, it was sold again, at a new record for Noe: \$7 million.

The new owner(s), who had purchased the property using a limited lia-



A four-bedroom condominium in this home on Duncan Street sold for \$2,750,000 in May. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

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						
May 2022	10	\$1,900,000	\$7,800,000	\$4,205,000	26	109%
April 2022	14	\$1,850,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,571,071	14	122%
May 2021	16	\$1,650,000	\$6,700,000	\$3,388,125	22	108%
Condominiums/TICs						
May 2022	11	\$850,000	\$2,750,000	\$1,529,091	19	114%
April 2022	10	\$960,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,602,400	18	115%
May 2021	13	\$1,075,000	\$2,225,000	\$1,658,385	10	111%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
May 2022	7	\$1,550,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,160,714	31	110%
April 2022	2	\$2,175,000	\$2,280,000	\$2,227,500	31	99%
May 2021	7	\$1,365,000	\$6,000,000	\$2,725,571	63	108%
5+-unit buildings						
May 2022	1	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	150	84%
April 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 2021	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. NWV7/2022

bility corporation that shielded their identity, launched a renovation before moving in. But less than a year later, they put the gutted, half-done house back on the market for \$6.5 million. With no takers at that price, it was sold at clearance for \$4.4 million in April 2015.

All was quiet for six years. Then in mid-November of last year, the home hit the market with a \$12 million price tag. With no acceptable offers, the price steadily declined until mid-February of this year, when it was listed for \$7,995,000.

It wasn't until May that a buyer put in a contract for \$7.8 million, 35 percent lower than the list price six months earlier.

Behind its modern façade—known for its sharp angles and cantilevered rooflines—the house has 5,933 square feet of living space, featuring five bedrooms, six baths, a grand room with a

chef's kitchen and living/dining areas, two fireplaces, an elevator, a wine cellar, a four-car garage, several decks and terraces, and views from Twin Peaks to downtown San Francisco.

All things considered, the buyer got a bargain.

Lower Duncan Moving Up

The top-selling condominium in May was also on Duncan Street, but it was located down in the valley, on the 100 block, between Dolores and Guerrero streets. The sale garnered \$2,750,000, 10.2 percent more than the seller's asking price (\$2,495,000).

Part of a two-unit building constructed in 2003, the residence included four bedrooms, three baths, and 2,452 square feet of living space. It also featured a private entrance, a gourmet kitchen, an open living/dining area, a gas fireplace, deck, one-car parking, and exclusive use of the back yard. ■

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range June 2022	Average June 2022	Average May 2022	Average June 2021
Studio	8	\$1,995 – \$2,350	\$2,148 / mo.	\$2,193 / mo.	\$2,001 / mo.
1-bdrm	33	\$2,295 – \$3,950	\$2,976 / mo.	\$2,939 / mo.	\$2,713 / mo.
2-bdrm	46	\$2,665 – \$7,000	\$3,153 / mo.	\$4,115 / mo.	\$3,560 / mo.
3-bdrm	25	\$3,500 – \$12,000	\$6,009 / mo.	\$5,428 / mo.	\$5,571 / mo.
4+-bdrm	10	\$4,750 – \$27,500	\$10,058 / mo.	\$9,042 / mo.	\$8,123 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 122 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from May 14 to June 9, 2022. In June 2021, there were 180 listings. NVV7/2022

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SUN JUL 17	NICOLE A. TAYLOR • WATERMELON AND RED BIRDS A COOKBOOK FOR JUNETEENTH AND BLACK CELEBRATIONS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! The very first cookbook to celebrate Juneteenth, from food writer and cookbook author Nicole A. Taylor—who draws on her decade of experiences observing the holiday.
SAT JUL 23	CAMPER ENGLISH • DOCTORS AND DISTILLERS: THE REMARKABLE MEDICINAL HISTORY OF BEER, WINE, SPIRITS, AND COCKTAILS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Beer-based wound care, whiskey for snakebites, & medicinal mixers to defeat malaria, scurvy, & plague: how today's tipples were the tonics of old.
SAT & SUN AUG 6 & 7	ANNUAL BOOK SALE ! • SAT. 11:00 - 6:00 P.M. & SUN. 12:00 - 5:00 P.M. It's time for our annual clearance sale! All books in the store will be 20%-50% off, so come stock up on cookbooks by your favorite authors. And don't forget to bring bags!
SUN AUG 14	ALI SLAGLE • I DREAM OF DINNER (SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO): LOW-EFFORT, HIGH-REWARD RECIPES • 4:00 P.M. FREE! 150 fast and flexible recipes to use what you have and make what you want, from New York Times contributor Ali Slagle.
TUES AUG 23	JESS DAMUCK • SALAD FREAK: RECIPES TO FEED A HEALTHY OBSESSION • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Offering more than 100 inspired recipes, recipe developer and food stylist Jess Damuck shares her passion for making truly delicious salads. Salad Freak encourages readers to discover and embrace their own salad obsessions.
WED AUG 31	MONICA LO • THE WEED GUMMIES COOKBOOK: RECIPES FOR CANNABIS CANDIES, THC AND CBD EDIBLES, AND MORE • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Create delicious cannabis confections with this user-friendly guide to making THC- and CBD-infused gummies, jellies, soft caramels, hard candies, and more delicious edibles!

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Local OG (Open Gym) warriors take advantage of expanded court hours as they break in the gleaming, newly refinished floor at Upper Noe Rec Center. *Photo by Chris Faust*

Reflecting Upon Summer Fun

Summer is full of activity at Upper Noe Rec Center and we hope to see you there. The floors were polished in June and significant improvements were made to the field and dog park in expectation of your family's visit. Through the summer, the building is also open on Mondays. That day is dedicated to **Open Gym** to provide more energetic, self-directed play.

For a slower pace, **Healing Yoga** is a new free drop-in class that will build knowledge and skill while teaching fundamental poses to increase flexibility, enhance muscle tone, and improve coordination. Beginners and seniors are encouraged to participate. Visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the office at 415-970-8061 for more information.

On first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, tune in to **Concerts in the Park**, Upper Noe's free family-friendly live music series in the playground. The midsummer lineup features bands and musicians:

- July 2 B Street Eklectik (rock, soul, and folk)
- July 16 Delphi Freeman (indie pop rock trio)
- Aug. 6 Constant Coogan (musical theatre pop rock)

The rec center and park are located at 295 Day St., at Sanchez Street.

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

Upper Noe Summer Session June 6 to Aug. 13, 2022

Rec Center Summer Hours: Mon., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Monday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open Gym (All ages)

Tuesday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday
10:45 a.m. to noon Int'l Folk Dance
Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (All Ages)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Thursday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult Pickleball FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates
1:30 to 3 p.m. Healing Yoga – Drop In FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz – Little Kickers
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Karate Kidz
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Camp

Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
1 to 4 p.m. Argentine Tango 55+ FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (Youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult Drop-in Volleyball (advanced only)

Saturday
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Gym
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE

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SHORT TAKES

You're My Hero

Heroes Day in Noe Valley will be Sunday, July 10. Representatives from local fire and police stations, along with other first responders, will be on hand for the celebration from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Noe Valley Town Square, on 24th between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets.

Fire trucks, police cars, and other vehicles will be parked on the street, available to view and perhaps take a seat in. Selfies may be taken with your chosen hero.

Besides thanking the men and women who keep us safe, kids will be able to dress up like heroes in a costume contest, which starts at 2:30 p.m. Prizes include gift certificates from Bernie's Coffee, Just for Fun, Easy Breezy Frozen Yogurt, and other local merchants.

Both kids and adults can join the hula hoop instruction at the party. A few lucky twisters will get a free hoop to take home. Rachel Swann Compass Real Estate is providing free ice cream to all heroes and their admirers.

For a list of other July events at the square, such as yoga, Rhythm & Motion, and Acoustic Sundays (2 p.m.), see the *Voice* Calendar or go to <https://noevalleytownsquare.com/events>

Summertime at Gallery Sanchez

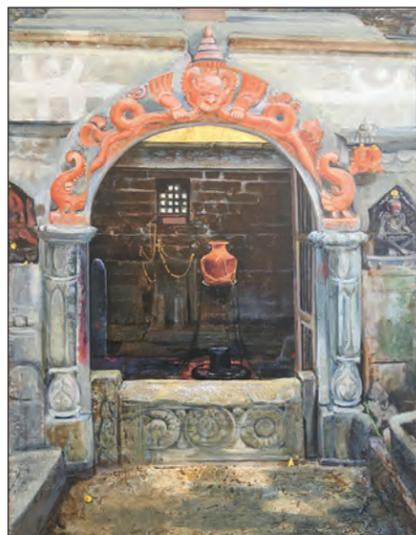
Fifteen Noe Valley artists will show work July 23 through Aug. 20 in an exhibit titled *Summertime* at Gallery Sanchez. The gallery, located in the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., will be open Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

The public is invited to a reception Saturday, July 30, 1 to 4 p.m. Complimentary wine, sparkling water, and light refreshments will be served.

The artists, including Sam Barbar, Wendy Bertrand, Alita Blanco, Kwai-Shei Chen, Robin Fragner, Marianne Hampton, Elizabeth Michaels, Patricia O'Connor, Stefan Salinas, Lolly Schiffman, Henry Sultan, Jack Tipple, Peter Vaccaro, and Tanya Wilkinson, will be on hand to answer questions. Also featured will be a painting or two by beloved teacher and artist Jenny Badger Sultan, who died in October.

Besides paintings, you'll find collages, mandalas, drawings, sewn fiber, and works in mixed media. Many will be for sale.

For more information, contact gallery director Kit Cameron at galleriesanchez-noevalley@gmail.com.



"Warm Blessings," a painting by the late Jenny Badger Sultan, will be among the artworks on display in *Summertime*, a show at Gallery Sanchez July 23 through Aug. 20.

Dawson Goes Global

Works by the renowned Noe Valley photographer Robert Dawson are on exhibition at the San Francisco Main Library through Sunday, Nov. 13, in the Jewett Gallery on the lower level at 100 Larkin St.

The exhibit, "The Global Library Project," is a photographic study created by Dawson and his wife, historian Ellen Manchester. It features photos of libraries in cities, villages, and fields around the world, from Palestine to Pompeii. Dawson has already documented 150 libraries in the U.S., and collected the images in a book titled *The Public Library: A Photographic Essay by Robert Dawson* (2014).

Dawson says the Global Library Project is ongoing. "This exhibit marks the project up to this point. The work never ends," he says, noting that next on his list are libraries in eastern Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

On July 23, Dawson will show slides and talk about the myriad types of libraries depicted in the Global Library Project, including libraries in Europe that work with refugees to ease their transition to new homes. The free presentation starts at 1 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library.

To find out more, go to <https://sfpl.org/exhibits/2022/06/11/global-library-project>.



The Jungle Books Library in a refugee camp in France was demolished in 2016, but the small library is immortalized in photographer Robert Dawson's Global Library Project, on view at the Main Library.

Rec Center Party Up Close

Save the date—Sept. 24—for the return of the Upper Noe Block Party after an absence of two years. This year, the theme will be Up Close & Personal. Meet your neighbors and renew old acquaintances from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

UNN president (and chief party planner) Christopher Faust says, "We feel that fall will finally be the right time to party. The community wants to get together again, to see up close familiar faces and renew those personal encounters that make a neighborhood strong."

The event will offer games, music, and food, and is also a fundraiser for the rec center, including a raffle. You'll be able to buy tickets to win free dinners at local restaurants, shopping sprees, haircuts, pet care, and other freebies donated by neighborhood merchants.

Faust asks community groups that would like to reserve a free table at the event to sign up now at info@upper-noerecreationcenter.com. Those who'd like to volunteer also should send an email to that address.

Linda Ronstadt Tribute

Vocalist Sony Holland and guitarist husband Jerry Holland will sing and play a tribute concert to Linda Ronstadt on Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m., at Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St.

The show will focus on Ronstadt's music of the late 1960s and early '70s.



Sony Holland performs a Linda Ronstadt tribute concert at Bird & Beckett Books & Records on July 27.

"I wanted to concentrate on the decade she rose to stardom," explains Sony Holland. Between numbers, the Hollands, who live in Glen Park, will talk about Ronstadt's musical journey and that of her band, the Stone Poneys.

The 70-minute performance may include such hits as "Different Drum," "Long Long Time," and "Heart Like a Wheel." Ronstadt, who has lived in the Sea Cliff neighborhood of San Francisco since 1999, is now retired. In her heyday, the rock, folk, and jazz performer won 11 Grammy Awards, three American Music Awards, and two Academy of Country Music Awards.

Sony Holland has fine-tuned her vocals show in gigs at the Blue Note in New York, Herb Alpert's Vibrato in L.A., and the San Francisco Jazz Center. She's also fronted jazz combos in Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Tokyo.

"My show is one of gratitude," Holland says. "Linda gave of herself night after night in concert and in the recording studio for over four decades. We are the lucky ones."

Call Bird & Beckett at 415-586-3733 for reservations. The cover is \$15. More information on Sony Holland at www.sonyholland.com. Connect with Bird & Beckett at <https://birdbeckett.com>.

A Freeway in Glen Canyon?

Glen Park is celebrating neighborhood women who have worked to make the area a better place, especially the "Gum Tree Girls," a trio of women who kept a freeway from being built through Glen Canyon in the late 1960s.

But residents and activists from all over the city will be streaming to the Gum Tree Girls Festival on Sunday, July 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in Glen Canyon Park at Chenery and Elk streets.

There will be activities on the soccer field, including children's sports, dance and musical performances, food booths, and information tables. Festival goers will also be treated to a screening of an oral-history video on the Gum Tree Girls' successful campaign, talks on the history of Glen Canyon and women's activism, and a self-guided tour of the



The Gum Tree Girls Festival in Glen Canyon Park on July 10 gets its name from the three women who fought to keep a freeway out of the canyon in the 1960s.

Photo courtesy Evelyn Rose

Even Odder in Person

Odd Mondays is back in person in August, after a 2½-year interlude on Zoom. You also may be glad to learn the series has found a new, more spacious venue, in the stained-glass-window-filled sanctuary at Bethany Methodist Church, 1270 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley authors Cara Black, Susan Dambroff, Wayne Goodman, and Richard May will read from recent work to celebrate the live return and the enthusiastic beginning of May's fifth year as Odd Mondays organizer, on Monday, Aug. 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Black will read from her 20th Aimée Leduc mystery, *Murder at the Porte de Versailles*; Dambroff from her latest collection, *A Chair Keeps the Floor Down*; Goodman from his novel *Lazarus in St. Petersburg*—just published in July; and May from the August story in his third story collection, *Gay All Year*.

The last live event for the 21-year-old neighborhood series was on Feb. 2, 2020, at Folio Books, 3957 24th St., its longtime home. Though the venue has changed, Folio will still stock the books featured at Odd Mondays—at the store and online at www.foliosf.com/odd-mondays. Copies will also be sold at events.

But books won't be the only topic at Odd Mondays. The series will return to its original format and include music, talks, films, and other events as part of the show. Got an act? Contact May at richard.may1313@gmail.com.

To get notice of future shows, like Odd Mondays' page at www.Facebook.com/OddMondays, or email oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com.



Impresario Richard May is excited to bring back the live Odd Mondays authors series in August in a more spacious venue and with the addition of music, theater, you name it.

Glen Park Women Hall of Fame, inside the Glen Park Recreation Center. Joan Seiwald, one of the original "Gum Tree Girls," is scheduled to make a guest appearance.

The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, led by local historian Evelyn Rose, is producing the festival, at a projected cost of \$20,000. To find out how to participate or donate, go to www.glenparkhistory.org.

Short Takes are compiled and written by Richard May

Voice Readers Catch Some Rays

While catching up on the news from back home, vacationing Noe locals Bradley Knight and Kathryn Gianaras sun themselves in the beauty of Oia, Santorini, Greece.

Too late for the edition they're holding, is the big news that the couple got engaged a week before departure.

How will they top this for a honeymoon?

...

Where have you been lately? Tell us and we'll tell the world. Just email editor@noevalleyvoice.com and include a photo. We'll take care of the rest. Thanks!



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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, profiling new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month, we highlight a business that hopes to take us back to nature...and to retail as well.

URBAN SCOUT
3848 24th St. at Vicksburg
415-757-0122
www.urbanscout.us

After four years of doing pop-up shops to sell houseplants in Noe Valley, Urban Scout owner Santiago Esparza now has a permanent location at 3848 24th St. It happens to be across the street from his friend Stephen Moore's mercantile store, the spot where Esparza would sell his potted plants on certain days.

Last year, Esparza took over the lease for the storefront, which for years had been home to the stained-glass store Cradle of the Sun. Since Cradle of the Sun left in 2015, the commercial space at the corner of Vicksburg had been a real estate office and a children's furniture store.

As the *Voice* noted in its December 2021 issue, Esparza briefly opened during the holiday shopping season but then closed to remodel the new space. He soft-opened in late May and was still putting some of the finishing touches on the shop when the *Voice* spoke with him June 24.

"I always dreamt of having a store in San Francisco," said Esparza, 45, who grew up in Los Gatos. "I wanted to do something on 24th Street in my neighborhood, especially after I saw the success of Stephen's store."

For the past decade, he has split his time between Reno and Noe Valley, where he shares a home with his fiancé, Michael Dunn, and their four children, Mateo, 8, Eva, 12, Red, 14, and Ethan, 17. (Ethan will be working at the store this summer.) Esparza plays soccer on a local club team sponsored by neighborhood bar the Valley Tavern.

This is the second location for Urban Scout, which first opened in Reno in 2014. When he was in sixth grade, Esparza moved with his mother to the Nevadan city after she remarried.

He had previously owned an interior design business with a retail shop component in Reno. But after parting ways with his former partner and seeing how customers gravitated to the unique plants he was carrying, Esparza pivoted to selling more houseplants. He also carries ceramics, furniture, and clothing made by local artisans.

"My passion is retail products, really well curated products," said Esparza.

As for the name of the business, he explained it stems from his "scouting" for products to carry whenever he is traveling for work or on vacation.

"I wanted something that rang well



Houseplants are the centerpiece of Urban Scout on 24th Street, but owner Santiago Esparza also offers a selection of ceramics, furniture, and clothing. Photo by Art Bodner

with Scout and thought Urban was the perfect combo, as I'm often scouting the cities/towns that I travel," said Esparza.

There are no vegetable plants for sale at Urban Scout. Mostly what customers will discover are houseplants that are easily cared for and require little watering, with some suitable for an outdoor patio. The selection varies based on what Esparza and his staff find at local wholesale nurseries.

Among those for sale in June were snow queen pothos (\$20 for a 4-inch plant), watermelon peperomias (\$25), and Brasil philodendrons (\$14). African violets (\$8 for a 2-inch pot) and kalanchoes with orange blossoms (\$10) are among the smallest of the plant varieties the store sells.

At the higher price range are larger plants such as goosefoots or syngonium podophyllums (\$75), and dragon scales (\$70), part of the *Alocasia* genus. A particularly rare plant, the pink princess philodendron, was priced at \$400, due to its being a pot with six individual plants that could be repotted on their own. They are prized for their leaves being shaded pink on one side.

"They provide so much, plants, and are good for you to have in your environment," said Esparza.

Esparza says he and his staff are happy to talk about the proper care of indoor plants or to suggest plants that are best suited for houses or apartments, or for settings with more or less light.

"People get scared and think 'I am going to kill it,' or 'my environment doesn't allow plants to grow.' We enjoy sharing info on how to help you with those things," said Esparza.

Different potting mixes and plant biotics are also for sale at the store, as are a variety of watering cans and pots. The choices range from modern cylin-

der pots with water trays (\$18) to designer pots made by various artists that can cost \$60 or more depending on the design. A pot made to look like a sloth (\$80) by Holly Coley has been particularly popular.

Among the other products on sale are Taylor Stitch socks (\$25.50) made from Italian merino wool, and sweaters (\$56) from the San Francisco-based Culk in various designs. The Blu Dot plastic chairs placed around the store (\$155) can be used indoors or out, as their colors won't fade in sunlight.

In popping in to welcome Esparza to the neighborhood, many people have noted there has been a need for a houseplants store in Noe Valley, he told the *Voice*.

"I think it has been going good," said Esparza. "The response of the neighborhood is so nice. Everyone comes in super kind and warm and welcoming."

Managing the shop while Esparza is out of town with his family on vacation this month is Morgan Bowling, who has worked at the Reno location for more than 18 months. Studying agricultural science with an emphasis on plants at the University of Nevada at Reno, Bowling has earned the nickname "The Plant Doctor" for her knack for treating ailing plants.

"If something is wrong with your plant, I will research to the ends of the earth to figure out what it is," pledged Bowling, who will be working at the Noe Valley location through July 17.

People can also bring their plants in to be repotted, with the cost depending on the size of the plant.

Urban Scout is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is closed on Mondays.

—Matthew S. Bajko

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

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Noe Valley Neighbors are Quitting Carbon this Fall
Our climate crisis isn't going to solve itself. We all must take action - and now it's your turn. This Fall, Noe Valley families are joining together to kick fossil gas out of their homes - with free help from QuitCarbon. QuitCarbon.com/NoeValley
(You are going to need a new water heater / stove / furnace / car soon anyways - why not make it clean, efficient, and electric?)

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July 1-Nov. 13: Photographer Robert Dawson exhibits "The Global LIBRARY Project." Main Library, 100 Larkin. sfpl.org

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

July 2-30: Take a Saturday stroll with NOE WALKS. Meet 10 am at 24th and Sanchez.

July 2 & 16, Aug. 6: CONCERTS in the Park hosts B Street Eklektik (July 2), Delphi Freeman (July 16), and Constant Coogan (Aug. 6). 10 am to noon. 295 Day. upper-noerecreationcenter.com

July 3 & 17: Free Moxie YOGA, 11 a.m. to noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 3 & 17: ACOUSTIC SUNDAY features singer/songwriter Stephanie Woodford (July 3) and world music's Altiplano (July 17). 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 6: The Noe Valley Library hosts a glass pebble magnet craft WORKSHOP for grownups. 4-5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 7-28: AL-ANON meets at Bethany Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez (use Clipper side door). 845-3203

July 8: The Noe Valley Library screens the 1947 FILM *Lady From Shanghai*. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 8-31: Shiva Pakdel exhibits intricate digital ART at Lola's Art Gallery. Reception July 8, 5-7 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875

July 9: LEGO Free Play at the Noe Valley Library is for ages 5 and older. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 9: ChungNamont Gallery holds a closing RECEPTION for photography by Arielle Rebek and Ron Moultrie Saunders, 2 to 5 pm. 4071 24th. chungnamont.com

July 10: The Glen Park GUM TREE GIRLS Festival features history, entertainment, and food. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. Glen Canyon Park, Elk at Chenery. glenparkhistory.org

July 10: SUNDAY STREETS is car-free on Valencia Street. 11 am-4 pm. sundaystreetsf.com/valencia

July 10: ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email actionsolidari-

ty@gmail.com for the link.

July 10: HEROES DAY at the Town Square features police and fire trucks, a hero costume contest, and hula hoop lessons. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 10: Soprano Heidi Moss Erickson and pianist John Parr perform Richard Strauss and Tarik O'Regan at Lieder Alive! 5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org

July 11: ODD MONDAYS hosts in-person readings and discussion with novelists Kirstin Chen and Hans M. Hirschi. 7-8 pm. Fabulosa Books, 489 Castro.

July 16: Rhythm & Motion offers a DANCE workout, 4-5 pm., in the Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

July 17 & 23: AUTHORS Nicole A. Taylor (*Watermelon & Red Birds*) and Camper English (*Doctors and Distillers*) give talks at Omnivore Books on Food. 3 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

July 20: Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *Arcadia* by Lauren Groff. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 20: UPPER NOE Neighbors meet from 7 to 8:30 pm at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez. uppernoeneighbors.com

July 23-Aug. 20: Gallery Sanchez exhibits 15 Noe Valley ARTISTS in the group show *Summertime*. Saturdays, 1-4 pm. Reception July 30. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. galleriesancheznoevalley@gmail.com

July 27: Sony Holland performs "Songs of LINDA RONSTADT" at Bird & Beckett Books. 7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

July 30: The Rabbit Hole Children's Theater leads a treasure trunk WORKSHOP for ages 4 to 7. 11-11:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Aug. 1: ODD MONDAYS features in-person readings from authors Cara Black, Susan Dambroff, Wayne Goodman, and Richard May. 7 pm. Bethany Church, 1270 Sanchez. Facebook.com/OddMondays

Email your listings for August or Sept 2022 to calendar@NoeValleyVoice.com. Noe Valley events take priority. Thank you.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Fog Days of Summer

By Mazook

FEELING MAD, SAD, GLAD: Well, it is a happy Fourth of July, or is it? Noe Valleons, it's safe to say, are mad as hell at the world beyond the borders of our urban village. More on that later. Sadly, Downtown Noe Valley will be losing one of its anchor stores.

However, we're glad that summer has arrived and the fog is rolling down from Twin Peaks, keeping our valley cool and very livable. We do appreciate our like-minded neighbors, who meet to share gripes of wrath in our Town Square, and the interesting businesses fate has drawn to 24th Street and environs. So here's the news fit to print.



CLOTHES CLOSING: Alas, after 23 years in the midst, Ambiance will be closing its Noe Valley store at the end of summer. The final day to shop for dresses, jeans, hats, and jewelry at the local boutique will be Aug. 31, says Ambiance owner Donna O'Leary, who with husband Kieran bought the business in 1996. Ambiance was founded on Haight Street in 1983, and is a clothing institution in San Francisco.

"Yes, we are going to close the store at 3979 24th Street. We lost our lease, the building was sold, and the new owner is going to occupy the space," O'Leary told *Voice* editor/co-publisher Sally Smith on June 26.

O'Leary said the pandem-economy also dealt a blow, despite help she received over the two years from her landlord, city, state, etc. "During the pandemic, business at Ambiance went down 70 percent. But things are still not back to how they were pre-pandemic. Business is only 60 percent" of what it was before Covid, she said.

"We will continue to be open until July 10, then close July 11 to 13 to slash prices for the closeout," O'Leary continued. "On one day, July 14, Ambiansiders—longtime customers—will be invited in the store to buy at a 30 percent discount. Then doors will reopen July 15. There will be bigger and bigger discounts until we sell everything" and finally close Wednesday, Aug. 31. But from Sept. 8 to 11, O'Leary said, they will hold an estate sale and sell all the fixtures.

Ambiance will still operate its two other S.F. stores, on Irving in the Inner Sunset and on Union Street in Cow Hollow. Their flagship Haight Street store closed in March 2020, during the first month of the pandemic shutdown.

"Noe Valley has five employees. They can go to the other two stores, and I will then be able to open them seven days a week," O'Leary told Sally.

"It was a difficult business decision, and we're heartbroken we have to leave. We love all our Noe Valley customers and all the support over the years. It was my favorite neighborhood to operate out of."

In other biz news, Folio Books noted the following on a sandwich board on the sidewalk in front of its store: "Due to a TERRIBLE Supreme Court decision, 100% of the profits for sticker sales will go to the National Network of Abortion Funds."

You too might want to donate:
<https://abortionfunds.org>.



THE RESILIENCE OF MURALS: Muralist Mona Caron has finished her work restoring all the detail in the fabulous mural on the west side of the Noe Valley Town Square, and now is off to Switzerland, where she was born, to visit with family. She says the rest of her painting crew will finish the large grapes and carrots and then varnish the mural. It should be completed this month.

"I have really enjoyed working in the Town Square and taking the J-Church here from my home [since 1991] on 16th Street near Church."

Caron says she could not have done it without "my crew, working tirelessly." The heavily damaged wall (beneath her paint) was restored prior to her arrival last month by Site and Studio's conservator Kiernan Graves, design consultant Robin Milliken, and technician Brandon Phuong. According to Phuong, the restoration involved applying a "high modulus sealant to expand the cracking lumber."

Caron says she designed the murals during her "blue period" from 2007 to 2010, when she was painting "narrative" murals, and "it took eight months, between 2007 and 2008, doing these murals in the Town Square." Since that time, she has traveled around the U.S., South America (where she painted a 20-story mural in Brazil), and Europe, where she created murals of plants (she calls "weeds") on the sides of 60 tall buildings. Check out her worldwide works at <https://monacaron.com>.

"I really enjoyed talking to all the people in the neighborhood who came by every day to visit with me and tell me how much they appreciated the murals, and even some pointed out to me where they were in the murals," Caron said.

As we were talking, longtime Noe Valleon Kwan Chen (42 years on Jersey near Dolores) approached and pointed out where he was captured in the mural, coming out of the door of Martha's coffeehouse across 24th Street from the square. Said Chen, "I am wearing the same jacket today as appears in the mural!"

Caron is also featured in *The Resilience of Weeds*, a BBC World Service YouTube video. Bravo, Mona.



VEGGING OUT: This summer should bring some great produce to the Saturday farmers market in the square. Jimmy Egoian of Twin Girls Farm, located in the San Joaquin Valley, says you can look for yellow and white peaches and nectarines, kumquats, and plums in July.

"In August, we will have Valencia

oranges, pomegranates, and some apricots, which is the lightest crop we have ever seen," says Egoian. Grapes and guava will arrive later that month.

"However," notes Egoian, "we are having difficulty with getting workers to pick the crops. Labor is our number one issue these days."

Down Highway 99 near Fresno, the Herr family farm is harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables for the summer. "In July, we will have Red and Golda seedless watermelons, seedless oranges, as well as sweet white and yellow corn," says farm manager Kou Her. (Google says the "Golda rind is yellow and the flesh is red, like a precious jewel.")

"We will also have lots of tomatoes, including Sun Gold and Clementine, and pink, purple, and Bumblebee cherry tomatoes, as well as the very popular Early Girls," he says. Also, Her says to look for red, yellow, and orange bell peppers, Thai chili peppers, Italian basil, and Chinese long beans. "We will also be harvesting and selling fresh okra, which can't be found in most produce markets."

The Noe Valley Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday.



LOCAL EATNIKS will welcome Perfectly Seasoned, a spice shop at 4017 24th St. The spot was formerly occupied by Eye Q Optometry, which moved up to 24th and Diamond. Owners Phuong Mai and Matthew Green plan to open by early August.

"We are very excited to open our shop in Noe Valley, [since] it's centrally located in San Francisco," says Mai. He promises a list of "around 200 herbs and spices, including long peppers, cayenne peppers, cinnamons, paprika, and many Asian blends." Says Mai: "I have been cooking for a long time, and for the past eight years worked for a publisher of cookbooks."

The shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and close at 4 p.m. on Sundays.

In other Downtown Noe Valley news, First Republic Bank is moving its Noe branch from the corner of Jersey and Castro to the recently vacated space next to Whole Foods, formerly occupied by Umpqua Bank. First Republic has started the permit process and should open the doors on their new location in the early part of 2023.

Mapamundi Kids toy store at 1306 Castro devoted its window to San Francisco and the Golden State Warriors in June, and created an Instagram reel showing store artist Mariah Ortiz painting the mural in the window (to the tune of Tony Bennett's

"I Left My Heart in San Francisco"). They were quite excited when the reel went viral.

For the record, Steph Curry and the Warriors defeated the Boston Celtics 103-90 in Game 6 of this year's NBA Finals June 16, 2022—the team's fourth championship in eight seasons.



NOE VOTES, BARELY: Results in the June 7 Primary Election have been tabulated by the San Francisco Department of Elections, and likely will make our local voters mad, sad, glad, or a combination thereof.

Voter turnout in Noe Valley was a mere 56.9 percent of the 16,057 registered voters. (Citywide, just over 46 percent voted.) I wonder why the other 43 percent of the Noe voters didn't vote. That irks me.

The Noe votes for governor favored Gavin Newsom over the other 24 candidates, with 84 percent voting for him. House of Representatives' Nancy Pelosi garnered just over 80 percent of our vote. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla got over 91 percent approval to serve out the remainder of the term he was filling after Kamala Harris left the job to become vice president. He got 89 percent to vie for the same seat on the November ballot.

Want the Noe Vote on the San Francisco propositions? Here you go: Proposition A (Muni Reliability and Street Safety Bond), 65 percent voted "yes." Proposition B (Building Inspection Commission), 70 percent yes. Proposition C (Recall Timelines and Vacancy Appointments) failed in Noe, with a 54 percent "no" vote. Proposition D (Office of Victim and Witness Rights; Legal Services for Domestic Violence Victims), 56 percent voted yes. Proposition E (Behested Payments...whatever that is) carried by 70 percent. Proposition F (Refuse Collection and Disposal), 77 percent yes. Proposition G (Public Health Emergency Leave), 64 percent yes. Lastly, but not leastly, Proposition H (Recall Measure Regarding Chesa Boudin), 42.1 percent of the Noe voters said yes and 57.9 percent said no.

Probably over 90 percent of the Noe voters would agree with Will Rogers: "I am not a member of any organized political party. I am a Democrat."



BEFORE I GO: I need to declare my madness and sadness with the current state of the union, with the overwhelming number of incidents of gun violence, especially the killing of children in schools. I offer the opinion of the beloved former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Second Amendment:

"The Second Amendment has a preamble about the need for a militia... Historically, the new government had no money to pay for an army, so they relied on the state militias. And the states required men to have certain weapons and they specified in the law what weapons these people had to keep in their home so that when they were called to do service as militiamen, they would have them. That was the entire purpose of the Second Amendment."

But Justice Ginsburg explains, "When we no longer need people to keep muskets in their home, then the Second Amendment has no function. ... I view the Second Amendment as rooted in the time totally allied to the need to support a militia. So...the Second Amendment is outdated in the sense that its function has become obsolete." Amen.

See you all in September. ■



Marrucello Oak 1 by Jack Tipple

"Looking at this artwork gives me a feeling of peace."

Original pen and ink drawings are available for sale by visiting Jack-draws.com and submitting the contact form.

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Adult Fiction

Two criminal empires control New England in Don Winslow's thriller *City on Fire*.

A girl with revolutionary aspirations rises to power during China's Cultural Revolution, in *Forbidden City* by Vanessa Hua.

Adriana Trigiani's saga *The Good Left Undone* carries a family secret across generations, from pre-World War II Italy to the present day.

In *The Kingdom of Sand* by Andrew Holleran, a gay man in Florida copes with the imminent death of his best friend.

In the early 1960s, a chemist becomes the star of a TV cooking show, in *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

A young lesbian actress of Chinese heritage may have to sell her soul to achieve stardom in 1920s Hollywood, in *Siren Queen* by Nghi Vo.

Adult Fiction eBooks

In *Patience Is a Subtle Thief* by Abi Ishola-Ayodeji, the daughter of a Nigerian chief is determined to find out the truth about her missing mother.

Twenty-two Seconds, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro, finds SFPD Sergeant Lindsay Boxer investigating illegal drugs and weapons and a series of murders of former cops.

Adult Nonfiction

Age of Cage: Four Decades of Hollywood Through One Singular Career, by Keith Phipps, examines the life and career of actor Nicolas Cage.

Good Eats 4: The Final Years is a collection of new and old recipes from Alton Brown's Food Network television series.

Richie Unterberger captures the history, politics, and personalities of S.F. in the multilingual photography book *San Francisco: Portrait of a City*.

Originally published in the *New Yorker*,

MORE BOOKS TO READ

In Full Stride

Summer Stride 2022 for all ages is in full swing! Keep track of your reading, listening, or learning with the library now through Aug. 31. Sign up at <https://sfpl.beanstack.org> or at any SFPL library location. For 20 hours of participation, you get a tote bag featuring art by illustrator Minnie Phan. Come by any library for a free book (babies through 12th graders), bookmarks, and tons of incredible reading material. Check out sfpl.org/summerstride for additional details, including curated book lists.

Speaking of book lists, here is the July selection of new books and DVDs at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, offered to the *Voice* by Adult Services Librarian Jack Tilney and Children's Librarian Catherine Starr. (Our own Karol Barske did the descriptions on this page.)

She suggests you pick up the photo collection *San Francisco: Historical Portrait of a City* (if you can—it weighs 8.8 pounds) or Nghi Vo's "spellbinding" novel about a Chinese-American girl who strives to become a star in pre-code Hollywood.

In children's lit, there are books on how to befriend penguins, spiders, and foxes, as well as other humans. Newly arrived also is a workbook for younger readers titled *Me and White Supremacy: How You Can Fight Racism and Change the World Today!*

Whatever your choices, you can place them on hold at sfpl.org and arrange for pickup at the Noe Valley branch. If you need help, call the Noe Valley branch Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 415-355-5707, or email info@sfpl.org. Or take time to visit your local librarians at 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. Masks are recommended but not required.

Elizabeth Alexander's essay *The Trayvon Generation* expresses the fears and hopes of younger Black Americans.

Adult Nonfiction eBooks

I'll Show Myself Out: Essays on Midlife and Motherhood is Emmy Award winner Jessi Klein's second collection of humorous essays.

In *Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop*, Danyel Smith includes the biographies of both famous and lesser-known American singers.

DVD/Blu-Ray

A father, played by Colin Farrell, tries to repair his daughter's android companion in the 2022 film *After Yang*.

The documentary *Attica* (2021) recounts the five-day 1971 uprising at Attica prison in New York.

Robert Pattinson stars as the latest incarnation of Gotham City's most famous crime-fighter, in the 2022 feature *The Batman*.

2022 Oscar winner for Best International Feature Film, *Drive My Car*, tells the story of a stage actor tapped to direct a production of *Uncle Vanya* in Hiroshima.

A group of young filmmakers sets out to

make an adult film in rural Texas in the 2022 horror film *X*.

Children's Fiction

The rhyming picture book *I Like This, You Like That*, written by Linda Ashman and illustrated by Eve Coy, is about making new friends and finding common ground. Ages 3 to 5.

A baby penguin is protected by his father while his mother forages for food, in *Waiting for Mama*, written and illustrated by Gianna Marino. Ages 3 to 7.

In *The Great Zappino*, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Marla Frazee, a runaway circus performer learns to face his fears. Ages 4 to 8.

A girl who has just arrived from another country faces her first day at school, in *Tomatoes in My Lunchbox*, written by Costantia Manoli, illustrated by Magdalena Mora. Ages 4 to 8.

In *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao* by Wendy Wan-Long Shan, a middle-school boy and his family try to make a fresh start in a small Virginia town. Age 8 to 12.

Two children living in a homeless shelter bond over a love of classical music, in *A Duet for Home* by Karina Yan Glaser. Ages 9 to 13.

In Samantha San Miguel's *Spineless*, an adventure set in the 1880s, a 12-year-old recovering from asthma in a health resort in Florida discovers a new animal species that needs protection. Ages 9 to 14.

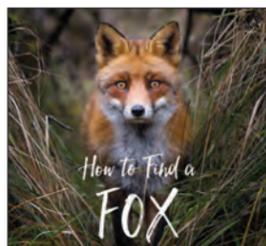
A student starring as Leonard Bernstein in a school play has to hide it from his parents in *Karthik Delivers* by Sheela Chari. Ages 10 to 14.

Children's Nonfiction

How to Find a Fox, written by Kate Gardner and illustrated by Ossi Saarinen, explains how to look for clues about the appearance of wildlife. Ages 3 to 6.

Author Harriet Ziefert and illustrator Brian Fitzgerald show us what trees can do in *Be Thankful for Trees: A Tribute to the Many and Surprising Ways Trees Relate to Our Lives*. Ages 4 to 8.

Steve Jenkins' *Disasters by the Numbers* gives the latest scoop on natural disasters in four categories: earth, weather, life,



LIBRARY EVENTS

Children's Events

Ages 5 and older (under 8 years, with adult or older sibling) are invited to in-person, hands-on **Lego Free Play** on Saturday, July 9, 11 a.m. to noon. Space is limited; call 355-5707 to register.

Treasure Trunk Workshop with The Rabbit Hole Children's Theater, for ages 4 to 7, on Saturday, July 30, from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 355-5707 to register.

Adult Events

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, July 2, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library has supplies to practice on, but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind.

Make **Glass Pebble Magnets** with artwork or collage pieces at an adult workshop, on Wednesday, July 6, 4 to 5 p.m.

This month's selection for the **Noe Valley Book Club** is *Arcadia* by Lauren Groff. The group meets Wednesday, July 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

At the **Friday Matinee**, on July 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Noe Valley Library presents the 1947 film *Lady From Shanghai*. Directed by Orson Welles, the classic film noir was partially filmed in San Francisco.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

and space. Ages 6 to 10.

Ten Ideas to Save the Planet, written by Giuseppe D'Anna and illustrated by Clarissa Corradin, offers tips and activities for everyone. Ages 7 to 10.

The world of spiders is explored in *Spiku: A Clutter of Short Verse on Eight Legs*, by Leslie Bulion, with illustrations by Robert Meganck. Ages 8 to 12.

Me and White Supremacy: How You Can Fight Racism and Change the World Today! (Young Readers' Edition), by Layla F. Saad, offers tools to create a better world. Ages 10 and up.

Children's eBooks, Fiction and Nonfiction

A little girl misses her parent who's on a work trip in *Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle*, written by Nina LaCour and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita. Ages 3 to 7.

The myriad creatures who are revealed when the tide goes out twice a day are revealed in *The Tide Pool Waits*, written by Candace Fleming, with illustrations by Amy Hevron. Ages 4 to 8.

Nina: A Story of Nina Simone is a picture-book biography of the singer written by Traci N. Todd illustrated by Christian Robinson. Ages 5 to 8.

When his mother suffers a stroke, a 12-year-old boy finds solace in a literary club in *Worser* by Jennifer Ziegler. Ages 9 to 12.



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Flatbread by Michael Blake

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Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library					
451 Jersey St., 355-5707					
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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF

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

Al-Anon Noe Valley

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

Castro Community on Patrol

Website: castropatrol.org
 Email: info@castropatrol.org

Castro Merchants

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

Diamond Heights Community Association

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

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

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

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

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

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
 Website: friendsofdolorespark.org

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
 Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

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

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)

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

Glen Park Association

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

Juri Commoners

Contact: Dave Schweiguth, M17-6290
 Email: dave@schweiguth.org
 Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

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

Noe Neighborhood Council

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
 Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
 Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
 Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743
 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
 Website: www.NoevalleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents

Contact: Mina Kenvin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com
noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks

Contact: Chris Nanda
 Email: christopher.nanda@gmail.com
 Website: NoeWalks.com
 Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley

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

Resilient Noe Valley

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

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

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

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez

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

Upper Noe Merchants

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

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Chris Faust, President
 Email: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
 Mail: 235 30th St., SF CA 94131
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm Zoom link by email.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com

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



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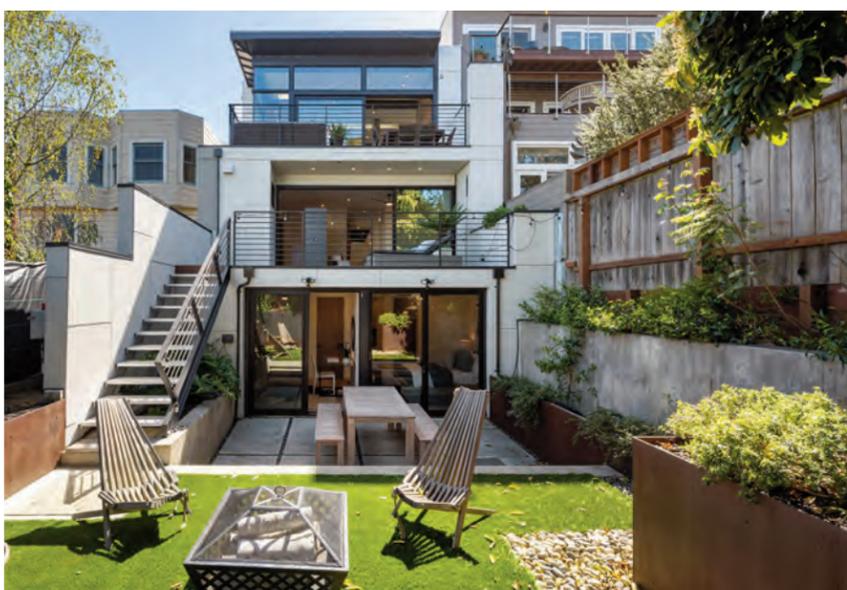
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2102 Castro Street

2 BED | 1 BATH | 2,213 SF | \$1,950,000

This stately home is a masterful mix of Victorian details and modern upgrades. It boasts beautiful panoramic city and hill views. The main level boasts views from the living room bay windows, built-in cabinets, a generous view bedroom, bath and kitchen. The eat-in kitchen has been recently updated and has a large pantry and overlooks and flows to the expansive, low maintenance manicured yard with custom built-in bench, turf, succulent gardens, and a fire pit.



4258 26th Street

5 BED | 4 BATH | 4,304 SF | \$5,375,000

This entertainer's oasis boasts modern architecture, panoramic views, incredible ceiling height and luxury indoor|outdoor living. The generous glass-lined great room has a soaring fireplace and sprawling deck access. Sunrises and sunsets are truly incredible from this vantage point! The kitchen is the heart of it all and flows seamlessly to the living and dining areas, and features built-in luxury appliances. The lower level has a spacious media lounge, glass wine vault, two additional bedrooms and baths and direct access to the backyard.



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