



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

It's Time Again to Raise the Words

We Begin the New Year With New Writing

Welcome to 2024 and new writing from your neighbors. The *Noe Valley Voice* is proud to present the following poems and stories crafted here in Noe Valley and vicinity. We do this twice a year—in January and August, while our usual contributors take a break.

We're grateful that so many skilled writers choose to participate in these editions. And we're certain you'll enjoy their work reflecting and shining a light on what unites us: our inner lives made visible.

We're also grateful for the support of our advertisers—all local merchants and professionals who see the value in helping the *Voice* with their dollars. For over 46 years they've been providing our printing budget and a small stipend for our contributors. You can join us in thanking them by paying for their wares and services. Together we create and sustain the vibrant community here that we love.



A Bouquet for You. The colors of Noe Valley are here for your contemplation— escorting you to calming colors and an invitation to “cultivate peace of mind and strength of heart.”

Photo by Jack Tipple

And then there's you dear reader. Many of you participate in the most meaningful way by writing a Letter to the Editor. Yours are the additional eyes and ears we depend on to gain a better understanding of this special place many

of us call home.

And send us your poems, essays and short fiction. Aside from our January and August Literary issues, we feature a regular column called Other Voices. We'd love to see you there.

All a Flutter

By LisaRuth Elliott

In my parents' house I recently found a sheet of paper on which my parents recorded my first 100 words. My eighth word was BIRD. I may have thought that in the last decade, through my own diligence, I had become a birder, but when we located this list, my mother explained that she and my dad began pointing out birds to me as soon as I began looking at things.

In honor of this discovery, I offer vignettes about eight backyard birds.

We have a low-tech bird bath in our backyard adjacent to a hummingbird feeder. This morning ritual of cleaning and refilling the bath has made for some fun proximity to the little buzzers as I crouch with the hose and look up at their long slender tongues slurping up the sugar juice. then I go sit down on the patio to drink my morning nectar—coffee. I have named one frequent juvenile sipper “Cheeky”—for his attitude, yes, but also for the single tiny pink feathers gracing each cheek. His adult feathers have not yet fully grown in, leaving him with a bit of a spotty flash when the light hits his head.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Wishes for a Grandson

by Grace D'Anca

I wish you curiosity
when you don't know the question
and can't find an answer in the tool box
and keep swimming
diving deep
and coming up wise.

I wish you words, to show you
to use when you feel shy
to give comfort
to stop hurt
words, only you can say.

I wish you smiles
to flash straight teeth
in spite of the rick rack now
and smiles always, when you see me
or hear my voice.

I wish you a kittens
and maybe a dog
to teach you tenderness
to help you learn
what doesn't last
and to keep you whole
if you're alone.

I wish you to do what you're good at
what needs to be done
even if you're not the star.
Do it because grandpa did
because he never did
because he didn't live long enough
to see it, dream it
know It could be possible.

A List of Things Of the Heart

A Poem for Children

by Mark Thoma

Impossible to list all the things of the heart—
Like counting the hay in a burro's cart!
The hoot of an owl in the woods at night
The low lying gold in morning light
The bleat of a sheep in search of her mother
Wind and snow heard from under the covers
Honks of geese way overhead
Butter melting and pooling atop cornbread
Bebop doo wop of a jazz quartet
Baby twins tittering tete a tete
A cuckoo caught in a cumbersome clock
Seabreeze, sun, and sandy flip-flops
A boy running fast under his kite
The moon pulling Jupiter in morning twilight
Impossible to list all the things of the heart —
but look at us here, we're off to a start!

Mozart in the Mission District

Dedicated to Casements Bar and Classical Revolution

by Jeff Kaliss

Enough forever
and far enough away
you have me live and lit,
sheltered from notness
by upstanding wooden walls,
boldly graffitied
in neighborhood pride.

Nearby, se habla español,
and now I listen to what,
long enough ago,
a German wrote with flickers from
a candle,
a little music in his too few nights,
though it still sparkles
in my much later and much longer life.

Eyes open to the sounds,
we sing the sharing
on a planet which listens
and looks from blue to black
and back
because we can.

- Minnesota native Grace D'Anca came to San Francisco in 1967 in pursuit of the arts. She performed with theater and dance groups in mental health facilities, special programs for youth, and funky church basements. She got interested more in audiencences and became a creative arts therapist. Retired now, she is making poems, art, performances, and dancing with the mirror.

- Mark Thoma has practiced medical social work for thirty years and is semi-retired. He writes poetry and flash memoir. Mark lives in the Castro.

- Jeff Kaliss is a *Voice* veteran who went on to global and webwide music journalism and authorship, as well as poetry, much of it created in public houses with musical accompaniment.



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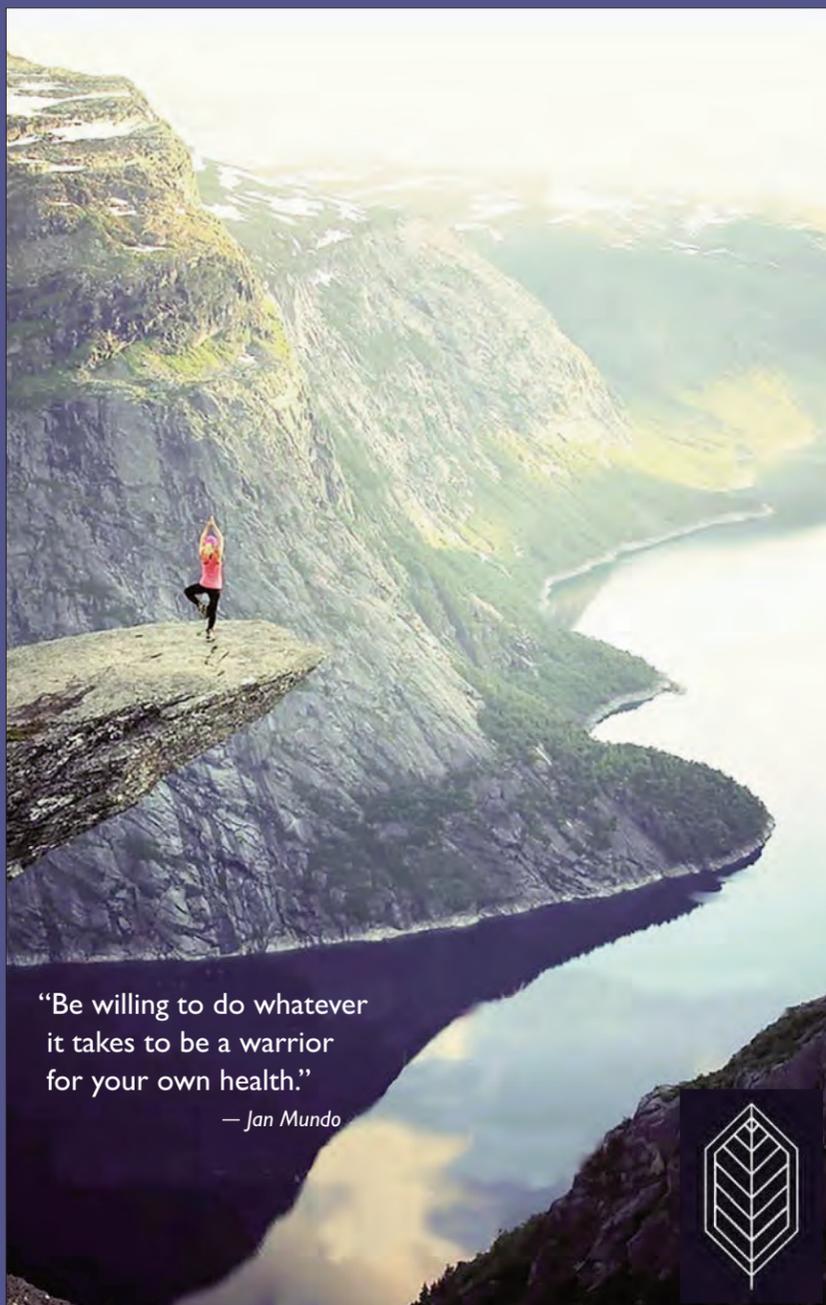
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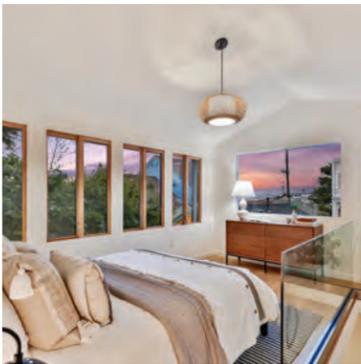
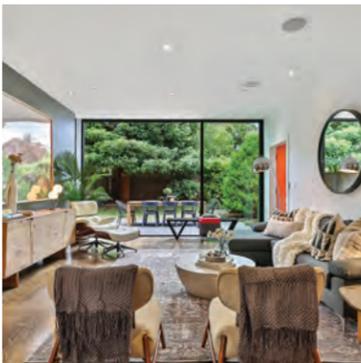
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Where Our Readers Roam



Stefan Gruenwedel catches up on the latest hometown news while resting in Labuan Bajo on Flores Indonesia before sailing to Komodo National Park.

Photo by Nick Baldwin

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

NVV12/2023

San Francisco Information Line	www.sf311.org	311 or 415-701-2311
Covid-19 Text "COVID19SF"	to 888-777, see sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19, or call	311
Burned-Out Streetlights, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E)		311
District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman	mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org	415-554-6968
District 8 Community Safety Liaison	Dave.Burke@sfgov.org	
Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW)		415-695-2017
Homeless Services Street Outreach Services (SOS) medical care		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)		415-970-2024
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

"A person's a person, no matter how small."

—Theodor Seuss Geisel ("Dr. Seuss), 1904–1991, author of Horton Hears a Who and many other children's books

¿Dónde está Mazook?

The Crossword, Crime Report, and Cost of Living columns are also missing from this edition. It's time for their winter break and the Editor-in-Chief and her band of contributors are off on their various staycations.

Not to worry. They'll return full of love and dedication to their tasks of creating the February edition of the *Voice*.

Until then, please enjoy this issue full of the writings of your esteemed literary neighbors.

As for Mazook, you can often find him at the parklet in front of Martha & Bros. on 24th Street—nosing around for the news and what's behind it.

—JT

LETTERS

From Another Jewish Neighbor Editor:

I wish to add to the intelligent, humane comments in the December Noe Valley Voice. I am and have been a progressive advocate, supporter, and member of the Noe Valley community (this since 1979). I was shocked and deeply disheartened to see the genocide mural on 24th Street. The only acceptable use of the word "genocide" concerning Jews can only be the genocide we experienced before and during World War II.

I have great criticisms of the way Israel has been handling the issue of the Gaza Strip and Palestinians in general, and I loathe the warmonger Netanyahu. However, Israel's response to the terrorist attacks of Oct. 7 warrant a strong defense. I can't say I know how to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East, but I know it cannot be with a government that threatens to push Israelis into the sea.

Whenever I see that mural, I feel disgusted by the ignorance displayed, the lazy acceptance of code words instead of a plea for real examination of the long and deeply held problems. I also feel fear, something I did not expect to feel in our lovely bubble.

I ask the artist to please, in the name of true humanity, to take it down.

Sincerely,
Name withheld by request

Garage Hero! Editor:

It was Friday, September 15th and we had just gotten home from school. Our aunt, who lives a couple doors down, had to go to the Emergency Room, so our dad drove her over there. Her garage door had somehow been opened during the evening, and she was at the hospital so she couldn't close it.

Luckily, 25th street resident Tony, was walking by some time in the evening and noticed that the garage was open, and tried to ring the bell multiple times.

When he found that nobody was home, he decided to take matters into his own hands. He went back to his house, grabbed a lawn chair and some hot chocolate, and set up everything in front of the garage. He slept the night there, making sure that nobody would go in and steal anything from the garage. We spotted him when we took the dog out for a walk this morning, and he explained everything that happened, and that he was pretty tired from sleeping there.

We want everyone to know what an


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

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is and that not all heroes wear capes. It is so amazing that he stayed all night to protect our aunt's garage!! What a hero!!!

Thank you Tony! We are so grateful for what you did.

Felix (age 13) & Daphne (age 10)

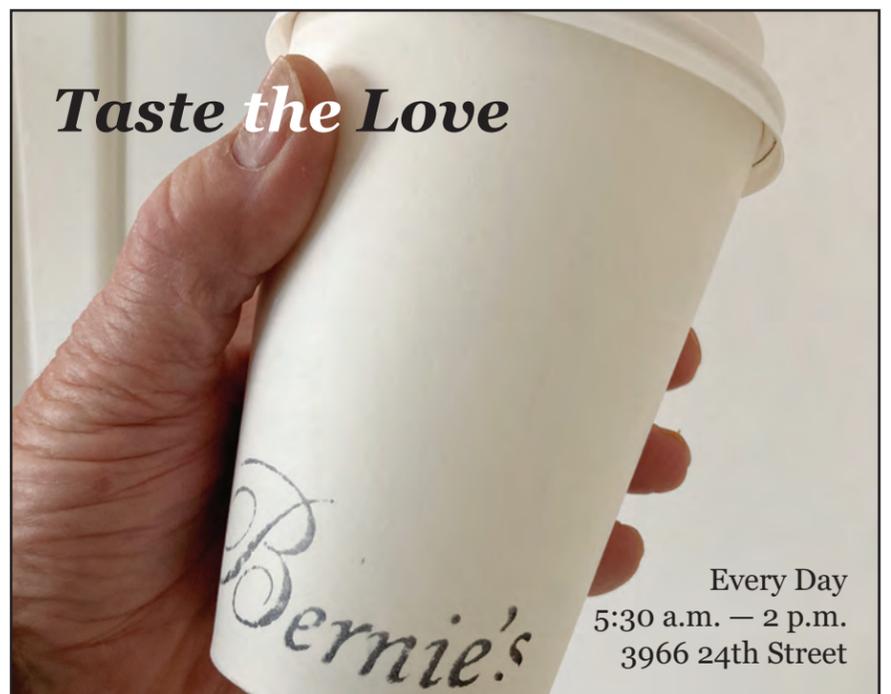


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



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American Robin.



Townsend's Warbler.

Illustrations by Nancy Botkin

Flutter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One day, as I was inside cooking up a fresh pot of nectar, I tried to reassure the community of **Anna's Hummingbirds** that the feeder would be replaced soon. They kept flying by the spot on the plum tree branch where it usually hangs and darting around acting—what I interpreted as—slightly confused. The good news is, since hummingbird feeders are only meant to supplement what hummingbirds already find in their environment for their caloric intake, they made do with hibiscus flowers and sage blossoms in the meantime. To my surprise, in the midst of scrubbing the hummingbird feeder in the kitchen sink, one beautifully bright pink-throated one suddenly hovered outside the kitchen window, looking at the dismantled feeder and giving me a demanding stare.

This fall I listened eagerly to the juvenile **White-crowned Sparrows** learning to sing. Often it manifests as a the first two notes of the adult's whole song, or a thinner vocalization of what an adult usually belts out. It reminds me of young adolescent boys when their voices break. Not until early December did full multi-note songs ring out across the neighborhood, in the call and response from bush to bush to that lasts all of the winter and spring months.

It is more common than I expected to hear **Red-shouldered Hawks** calling from the sky as they fly high over the next neighborhood to the east. Sometimes we hear them daily for more than half the week. We occasionally see **Cooper's Hawks** on our fence, very near the neighbor's bird bath, causing quite a flutter.

A **Black Phoebe** stopped at the bird bath for a few sips of water on a sunny morning. I am used to its presence, sallying as it leaves a post or branch to dip and snag an insect out of the air, returning swiftly to its original perch, but had not ever seen it approach the water.

I have noted one visit of the **Townsend's Warbler** to the bird bath—on Halloween. It seems fitting that this

brightly colored and masked bird would pick this festive day to dip face first and splash around for a cleanse. While a rare bather, in the winter through late spring I often hear the clipped call of this warbler with distinctive yellow and black markings moving through the backyard trees.

Our most regular visitors at the backyard "spa" are **American Robins**. Usually they get their bath time in as a trio, one or two in splashing while the others wait their turn on the fence, or find the favorite plum tree branch to go about the preening and post-dip routine. I am in a sort of awe state as I watch this process. Who knew robins had so many different colors of feathers lying beneath the standard red breast and brown back?

Probably my favorite everyday sighting is of the **California Towhees**. We have a bonded pair who traverse the yards. Nesting in the neighbor's camellia bush this past spring into the late summer, they foraged and shared food with their young through early fall, scratching at the ground with the cute little scoot forward and back they do. Drab greyish brown birds, they are almost too common to pay attention to, but their rufous undertail coloring is lovely. Their clear one note call followed by a staccato twittering is a staple of breeding season, they really can go on for as long as an hour at a time. I find this amusing for a bird who is pretty silent most other times of the year.

I still share birding with my parents, though we now live 700 miles apart. Significant sightings warrant a mention on a phone call or even a video sent by text if I am lucky to get a capture. I also get regular reports from them of the **Bald Eagle** pair that for the past decade or more has nested in the cottonwood tree across the river. On our last call they shared that our pair is back, and our hope for a successful breeding season is mutual.

LisaRuth Elliott is inspired by place. The stories and landscape of San Francisco, of Yelamu and its creatures, inform her life and work. She is an avid birder, writer and editor, visual artist, community historian, urban farmer, and lecturer at Bay Area universities.



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These chefs at ¡Hola Kids! were happy to share a view of their creations in December.



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Here are a few samples from *Screamin' Leeman's Movie Reviews: The Good, the Bad, and the Putrid*, a collection of 110 reviews published this year by Noe Valley Voice co-founder and legendary Clipper Street resident Bill Leeman.

This Is the End

Comedy horror movie released 2013. Starring Seth Rogen as Seth Rogen, Jay Baruchel as Jay Baruchel, Jonah Hill as Jonah Hill, James Franco as James Franco, Craig Robinson as Craig Robinson, Danny McBride as Danny McBride, Emma Watson as Emma Watson, Rihanna as Rihanna...

Now, we are all familiar with “chick flicks.” You know, movies that are sappy or syrupy or that have an emotional storyline and no explosions. Well, what about “guy flicks”? How come we never hear about them?

The reason I bring it up is because *This Is the End* is a ‘guy flick,’ for sure. Not that discerning women don’t enjoy it. As a matter of fact, there were several women in my vicinity in the theater having a great old time, not to mention the women who accompanied me—my lovely daughter Danielle and my distinguished niece Jennifer. They loved it.

As much mayhem, profanity, and general distastefulness as writer/directors Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg toss in, they still manage to do it, or should I say overdo it, in a classy way. A lot of years have passed since I stood at the hash pipe, but I have to say this would be a *perfect* movie to see stoned. But it’s great, stoned or not.

Before seeing it, I saw some taglines saying, “It’s really funny,” but I always take those with a grain of salt. One person’s very funny is another person’s vomitorium. I figured, okay, we could get lucky and have a few laughs. Let me tell you, this movie was TEN TIMES as good as I thought it would be.

Nothing but good, clean fun! Well maybe not that clean. As a matter of fact, it’s filthy. But also funny. And crazy. And hilarious.

It starts out as a Hollywood party with a bunch of movie stars getting stoned and chillin’, when all of a sudden *The Apocalypse* is upon them. Pandemonium! Bedlam! Havoc! And when the maelstrom starts, it starts with a bang. Earth breaking, walls cracking, sinkholes opening, fire, brimstone, and monsters. In a few short minutes, the L.A. party becomes a panic-stricken hell on earth. But a really *funny* panic-stricken hell on earth.

Our cast ends up trapped in James Franco’s mansion trying to figure out what’s happening and what to do. As they realize it’s the end of the world, the actors’ different personalities begin to emerge.

The movie alternates between scaring the bejesus out of you and making you laugh your butt off. As a matter of fact, I screamed OUT LOUD no less than four times. But no one heard my screams because they were all screaming as well.

AND if you want to look at it from another point of view, the psychological implications of certain monsters chasing certain people are, well, fitting. Talk about your weird Freudian nightmare.

And that’s another great thing about this movie. *Character development*. What a concept! Although they are all playing themselves, the actors expand on their



Photo by Jack Tipple

Screamin' Leeman's Movie Reviews

By Bill Leeman

personality quirks. Some we like, some we don’t, but we can relate to all of them as real people.

The movie even ends on a high note.

The three of us were laughing and talking about it all the way home.

Bohemian Rhapsody

Drama/musical bio released 2018; starring Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury

I finally got around to seeing *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the movie based on the rock group Queen.

One of the reasons I put off seeing this film is because, except for their classic “Somebody to Love,” I’ve never really cared for any of Queen’s music.

But after Rami Malek won the Best Actor oscar in 2019, I figured maybe there was something to the film after all. My lovely wife Carol had already seen it, so while she was teaching a dance lesson, I dropped by the theater alone and took it in.

Later that night, I had a horrible nightmare about an enormous beaver eating my house. I am not kidding.

Now we all know that the real Freddie Mercury had an overbite, or as we used to call it before political correctness set in, “buck teeth.” And we know they wanted to make Malik look as much as possible like the character he was portraying. So they did. In spades. But seriously, did they have to make him look like the Hamster That Ate New York? I mean, please.

It was a hideous spectacle. That boy was *really* hard to look at. No wonder I had a nightmare. He could hardly close his mouth over those enormous fake dentures, and when he did, he looked like a cross between Don Knotts and Francis the Talking Mule.

No matter how hard you concentrated, this was a sight you could not unsee.

Other than that, the movie was pretty good. Showed Mercury’s struggle with being gay, and his eventual death from AIDS.

The music was better than I expected. Always nicer on the big screen. I even started to like “We Are the Champions.”

Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice

Documentary released 2019; winner Best Music Film at the 2021 Grammys

This is one *fabulous* movie about one of the great voices of our time.

Whether or not you like Linda Ronstadt’s music, this doc is really worth seeing, and if you do like her, all the more reason to seek it out. It’s a biographical picture of her life, and the great thing about it is they don’t skimp on the music!

She is singing throughout the entire movie in all the different dimensions of her remarkable career. What a treat! You know, some movies about singers spend lots and lots of time talking and talking when they should have shut up and let the music play.

But not here. It shows her in her early years, and all through her long and wonderful career, belting out tunes with her amazing voice, right up until her last concert in 2009, after she discovered she had a Parkinson’s-like disease and could no longer sing.

Her ability to do justice to all forms of music, such as opera, jazz, and Mexican folk songs, is absolutely thrilling to watch.

I highly recommend this one.

San Andreas

Released 2015; winner, 2016 BMI Film Music Award

This movie stars Arnold Schwarzenegger. Oh wait. No, it’s Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. Yep, it’s a new generation. Now instead of a bodybuilder turned actor we have an ex-WrestleMania star turned big screen idol.

It’s about the biggest earthquake to

ever roll through California. After reducing Los Angeles to a huge pile of smoking rubble, it moves right up to San Francisco, where it commences to do the same.

Like a wrestling match, the action is fast and furious. First thing is a daring helicopter rescue by our hero of a young blond woman (who else?) hanging off a cliff in her wrecked SUV. Some serious hitches along the way, but of course Dwayne prevails just as the SUV plummets into the canyon. Shortly after that, earthquakes start slamming the state.

I’m telling you, folks, there is very little down time in this movie. Oh, there is one scene where Arnold, I mean Dwayne, and his ex-wife are talking about the child they’ve lost. Her name is Mallory, or Valerie, or Hillary, or Celery... In any case, that scene is close to the only one in the entire movie that isn’t jam-packed with action sequences involving every type of vehicle known to man—helicopters, planes, boats, cars, and trucks. There is even a loaded container ship crashing into the Golden Gate Bridge from atop a tidal wave. Oh, sorry, did I spoil it for you?

I went a second time with Carol, plus friends Michele, Karena, and Nora. The best part of that second movie-going experience was looking down the row of seats every time some crazy action occurred and Dwayne cheated death once again and seeing Nora, with a really silly smile on her face, giving a big thumbs up.

The Banshees of Inisherin

Drama released 2022; with Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, and Kerry Condon

At last! Something original, something fresh, something interesting. Something provocative, touching, funny, well done, and heartbreaking. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Everyone in the cast was perfect.

Oh, to think I almost missed this. Some people told me this movie was kind of slow, so I put it off. It was not slow for me. My goodness, I was *riveted* from the first moment.

Now, I’m not going to tell you the plot, or divulge the surprises, because that would spoil the fun. But I will say mostly it’s about men being men—and how the males of the species create strife through stubbornness and the need to dominate others.

Not only is Colin Farrell a great actor, he’s worth the price of admission for his eyebrows alone.

I watched it at home through HBO Max. I was very fortunate to have subtitles because the Irish brogues are a little hard to understand. With the subtitles, I got everything.

This one won and was nominated for a whole slew of awards and rightfully so. It’s the best movie I’ve seen in quite some time. I can’t wait to watch it again.

Go see it, or watch it at home, *but see it*.

Bill Leeman, who now lives in San Rafael, is busy rehearsing his role in the comedy *Death by Shakespeare*, which will be performed at the Tamalpais Community Center in February. His book *Screamin' Leeman's Movie Reviews* is available on Amazon.com. He welcomes your comments at cb1222@aol.com.



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When The Divine Comedy Played At Seals Stadium

By Daniel C. Murphy

San Francisco's Seals Stadium was constructed at 16th and Bryant Streets in 1931. It was considered a small gem in the crown of American baseball parks. After the arrival of the Giants and Major League Baseball to San Francisco in 1959, the old ballpark was demolished. In place of Seals Stadium, a shopping center now occupies the site.

The teams constituting the Pacific Coast League (PCL) in 1946 were the San Francisco Seals, Oakland Oaks, Seattle Rainiers, Portland Beavers, Sacramento Solons, Los Angeles Angels, Hollywood All Stars and the San Diego Padres. In 1946, I was ten years old and a frequent visitor to Seals Stadium as our hometown Seals headed toward the PCL pennant.

Visiting teams usually played seven games in San Francisco: night games on Tuesday through Friday, a day game on Saturday, a doubleheader on Sunday. My parents, although strict about nighttime travel, allowed me to go to the Friday night Seals game alone. Then, it was the Saturday game, and the Sunday doubleheader for me.

With another winning season underway, our 20,000-seat ballpark was often at capacity. Pinky's Cushion Rentals was a popular feature of the games. For a small fee, a Seals fan could rent a thick, red cushion to soften the ballpark's wooden seats.

No deposit was required from the Seals customer, and there was likewise no obligation to return the rented cushion. That was my job, and the work of other boys, who after the game walked around Seals Stadium to retrieve the rented cushions and return them to Pinky's stand above first base.

After an hour's work, we would be given a free ticket to the next Seals game. Although I was only ten, I gathered cushions like the older boys. We all gained free admission to the next game through our stoop labor.

Even though I had never read "The Divine Comedy," a sense of Dante Alighieri's concept of contrapasso somehow began to seep into my mind. Loosely explained, contrapasso is the poetic image which allows the reader to see that a particular punishment fits the crime.

For example, in Dante's "Inferno" the il-



Crowds entering Seals Stadium for a baseball game in 1946.

Photo from the San Francisco Public Library Collection.

licit lovers, Paolo and Francesca are confined to the second circle of Hell, where the wild winds, symbolizing their unbridled lust, batter the hapless couple for eternity.

The eternal punishment which loomed before me was Pinky's.

Was I, a ten-year-old boy, doomed to

carry out this cushion-gathering addiction as long as there was baseball in San Francisco?

Was I running on Pinky's treadmill with no hope of redemption, because my reward would always be another ticket on the infinite road of future San Francisco

Seals games? Would I eventually become a man of sixty with no job or work experience except the retrieving of baseball cushions?

But I had unforeseen help from a heartless landlord and the Federal Office of Price Administration (OPA) in breaking the contrapasso chain. As the Second World War was ending in the late Fall of 1945, the OPA ended national rent control, and again permitted tenant evictions. In the summer of 1946, the Murphy family would be leaving sunny Noe Valley for fog-bound Park Merced, innocent victims of a national change in policy.

The only link we would have with civilization was the Park Merced bus which departed the foggy garden rentals of the Metropolitan Life Insurance suburb on an hourly basis. That slender link could only bring me to Lakeside Village, (Ocean near 19th Avenues) where it would be necessary to transfer to the M Streetcar to reach any part of the real city.

I finished the 1946 season, but Pinky's was over for me. My new future was now secure. I could leave a Seals game without picking up a cushion because I still had to make time for that long trip back home to reach Park Merced.

Perhaps, in my memory, I have exaggerated the great distance of Park Merced from civilization, because I actually was able to watch the first game the 49ers played. That was on September 1, 1946 at old Kezar Stadium with its 60,000 seats. (Seals Stadium 2)

Since I was ten years old, I could buy a child's ticket to the football game for 50 cents, with no help from Pinky. So, that autumn afternoon, after the 49ers had beaten the Chicago Rockets, 34-13, I was on my way back home to Park Merced without picking up a cushion. The contrapasso chain was broken.

Daniel Murphy acquired his familiarity with The Divine Comedy after studying Dante's opus in the original Italian under the tutelage of Professor Francesca Kautz at San Francisco's Museo Italo Americano. Since returning to Noe Valley in 1980, Dan and his wife, Lloydia, have lived in a Victorian on Church Street.

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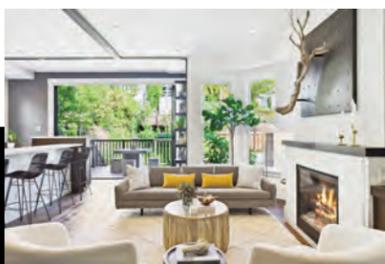
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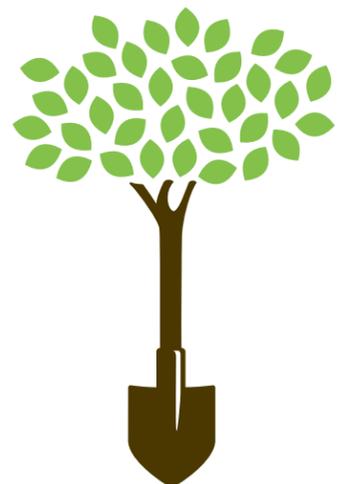


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Last Dance?

By L. Laila Kramer

To go or not to go? I thought about this question for several hours one afternoon in early May. A stellar salsa band was scheduled to play in The Noe Valley Town Square and I didn't want to miss it.

I looked over the few evening blouses and pants in my closet. As I pulled out my crimson blouse with flowy sleeves, an inner voice reminded me, "If you don't go, you'll never find out."

I put on a pair of black pants, slipped on my new red boots, grabbed my small purse, a bottle of water and my keys and rushed out the door before the comfort of my lounge chair lured me back to watch an old movie.

As I drove to this musical event, where renowned violinist Anthony Blea and his conjunto would be playing, anxiety reminded me that no one would ask this seventy-something woman to dance. "Well, I'll dance by myself or with a friendly someone who's swaying in rhythm to the music," my upbeat self responded.

I pulled into a parking spot just around the corner from the event.

"This is a good sign," I said to myself. I stood at the far, right end of the first row of those lined up to take the dance lesson. Yismari Ramos, dressed in a white, cropped top and black tights, her long, dark hair cascading down her back, walked to the front of the immense group that had gathered.

"Good evening and thank you for coming. Let's start dancing salsa! Left foot steps front, returns to center. Right foot steps back and returns to center." Then she showed us how to move side to side and how to turn so we wouldn't fall over or pull our partner off balance. Although I had done those steps hundreds of times, I followed along to warm up and to improve my technique.

After Yismari had been teaching for about forty minutes, her partner, Dennis Bain Savigne, joined her. Anthony, the orchestra's director, positioned his violin under his chin and nodded to the teacher and DJ that the conjunto was ready. Horns riveted as the conguero tapped his drum and the pianist played the introduction and then the melody of the classic, "El Numero Seis," about the number six subway train in New York City, a song I had danced to many times before.



Dennis and Laila after Salsa dancing at The Town Square May 13.

My body sizzled as a fire started heating up in my blood. My feet, legs and hips began moving in rhythm to the beat. I noticed that Dennis was standing about ten feet directly in front of me. He started walking toward me with an inviting smile, extended his right hand and led me to the impromptu dance floor. It happened so fast that anxiety didn't have a chance to quash my enthusiasm. This tall, stalwart young man and I were perfectly in sync. The footwork, turns and rhythm were as familiar as if we had danced together dozens of times before. With every step and turn, I felt wrapped in musical love. After the dance, we hugged like old friends.

Within seconds, I felt someone very close behind me, nearly breathing down my neck. I moved aside as a bubbling, young woman rushed into Dennis's arms. I floated back on clouds nine, ten and eleven to the space where I had stood.

"That was something," one woman commented to me.

I felt several pairs of eyes on me. Some had queried looks of "How did she do that?" on their faces.

Yes, how did I do that? A reassuring voice interrupted me. Stop! Just savor the moment!

And I did just that.

Driving home, I asked myself, why did Dennis ask me to dance? We didn't know each other. I could have been the age of his grandmother. But there was an inexplicable connection between us from the start. One friend suggested that it was "fate." Another, "magic."

"Maybe you two danced together in another time and space?" another friend said.

I didn't believe in fate or in previous lives. Stop looking for a reason. Relish the experience and think about what you can learn from it.

I now know that I will continue dancing as long as I can move to music. And there will always be someone to dance with if I show up – physically, rhythmically and heartfully.

Laila Kramer is currently writing a memoir. In between words, Laila enjoys meditating, walking, traveling and dancing. She also loves reading lively books to young children.

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I was extremely fortunate to be at Davies Symphony Hall on Saturday, October 21 to see Michael Tilson Thomas (aka MTT) conduct the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus (with soprano Angel Blue, mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, tenor Ben Bliss, and bass Dashon Burton), as they performed Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. I hadn't known it would likely be MTT's final performance at San Francisco's beautiful symphony hall – I had bought tickets in advance because I enjoy Beethoven's Ninth and I love to see MTT conduct!

It was a majestic performance by the Symphony, the 152-member Chorus (which was celebrating its 50th anniversary), the amazingly talented soloists, and MTT! When it was done the sold-out audience, recognizing the beauty of the performance, rose to its feet and gave a thunderous ovation! MTT walked off-stage, giving the audience a chance to calm down, but when it didn't, he re-appeared, and the ovation continued. Again, he exited the stage, and after a longer period re-emerged. The audience remained standing, and applauding – showing him how much they appreciated his talent and leadership. It was fitting, since he had, after all, shared with them his love of music for so long.

An elegant lady emerged from back-stage, dressed in a gorgeous red-and-white floor-length gown. It was London Breed, San Francisco's graceful mayor. She reminded the audience of all MTT has given San Francisco, and she showered him with praise. The audience was still standing, and they again celebrated their hero, who in turn took a couple of bows. Mayor Breed then announced that to honor MTT the block of Grove Street in front



Michael Tilson Thomas with the San Francisco Symphony & Chorus

MTT: It's About the Music

By Dale Fehringer

of Davies Symphony Hall will be renamed "MTT Way". Then she handed the microphone to him.

When the applause died down, he raised the microphone.

"Thank you, Mayor Breed," he said, "Does this mean I won't get any more parking tickets?"

The audience, still on its feet, laughed, and began another round of ovation. This is the man they have loved for so long.

Michael Tilson Thomas, also known in San Francisco as MTT, is devoted to

music. It's been the central focus of his life, and he loves to listen to it, study it, compose it, conduct it, and teach it. For him, it's all about the music.

Born in Los Angeles in 1944, Tilson Thomas was a child prodigy. He started taking piano lessons at age three, and while his parents encouraged him to study science, he told them he had to make music. His father, who was hearing-impaired and a self-taught illustrator and musician, supported him and told him that only two things matter in music: what and how. He found both of those things in classical music.

He studied piano, composition, and conducting at the University of Southern California. He became Music Director of the Ojai Music Festival, then, at age 24, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. After directing symphonies in Buffalo, Los Angeles, New York, Miami Beach, and London he took the baton from Herbert Blomstadt at the San Francisco Symphony in 1995. He is a well-known and popular resident of San Francisco, where he lives with his husband and long-time partner, Joshua Robison.

Tilson Thomas is also devoted to musical education and diversity, and he tries to bring new styles of music, composers, and variety to his concerts. He believes music wouldn't be interesting if it was always the same. For him, music provides connections to humanity and creates a new language that "speaks about who we really are." His performances are a little unusual for a symphony orchestra, but it works for him, and for his audiences. He has added jazz to his concerts, and rock, and pop. He's willing to experiment with different types of music because he loves them all. He collaborates with orchestra members, and as Yo-Yo Ma said, "it's done with ego checked at the door." For Tilson Thomas, it's a team effort. He makes suggestions and lets orchestra members develop and present them as their own; after all, for him it's not about the ego or the credit – it's about the music.

Dale Fehringer is a free-lance writer and editor. His most recent book is an adventure story for children called Noah and Mateo and the Big Project. He can be reached at dalefehringer@hotmail.com.

2024 HOUSING MARKET FORECAST

Thinking of buying or selling a house and wondering what the new year holds for the housing market? Here's how experts say it will stack up.

- ◆ Home price growth should moderate. Experts forecast home prices to end this year up 2.8% and to rise another 1.5% in 2024.
- ◆ The supply of homes for sale are projected to increase.
- ◆ Mortgage rates are expected to ease.

TO WRAP IT UP, EXPERTS PROJECT 2024 WILL BE A BETTER YEAR FOR HOUSING.

"We're going into 2024 with slight home-price gains, somewhat easing inventory constraints, slightly increasing transaction volume . . . All in all, things are looking up for the U.S. housing market in 2024."

-Mike Simonsen, President and Founder of Altos Research



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With the advancement of technology, new channels of communication and entertainment are flooding open to consumers. Even with the digitization of books, the print market has declined over the years. Physical books are slowly disappearing from shelves, however, this one bookstore called Omnivore, located in Noe Valley, is thriving in the market, even amongst the challenges.

"The book is on the table..." You may have heard this expression, and it best describes Omnivore. All the books sold in-house are specifically related to cooking, drinking, and food. This niche caught my attention not only because books are disappearing, but because their content is focused and specialized, and it's a segment that has seen phenomenal growth as well.

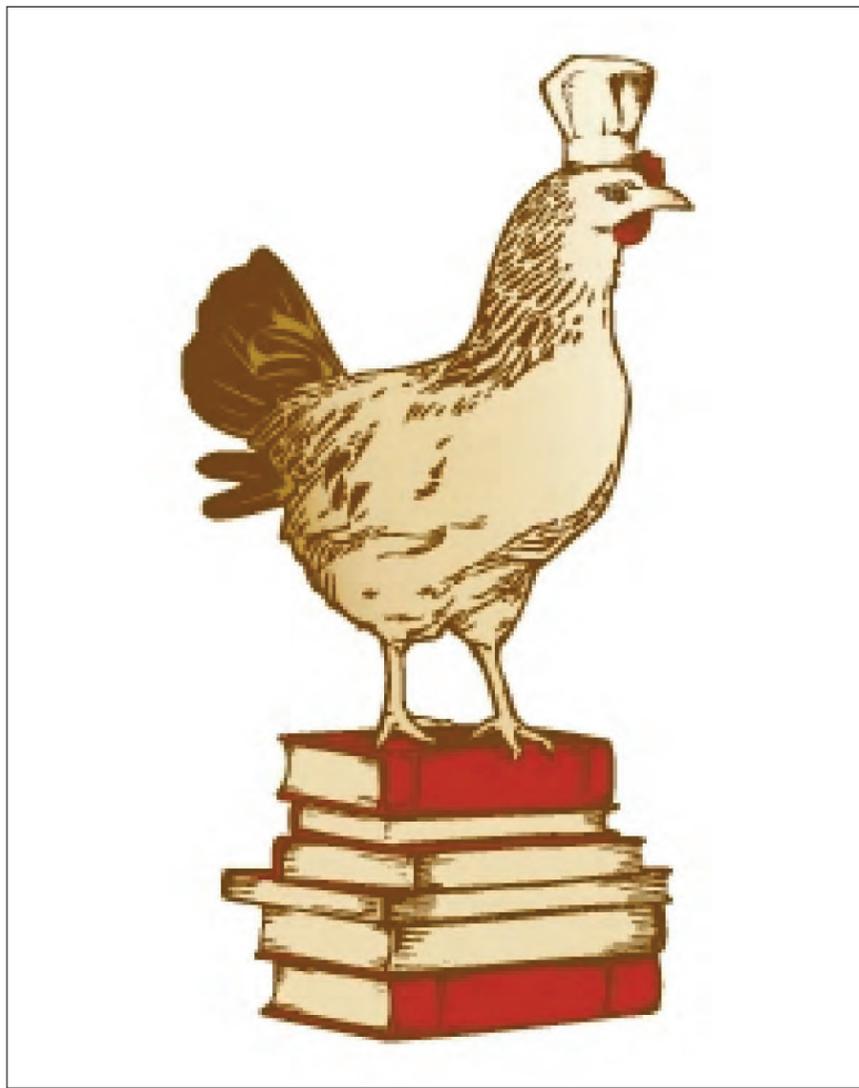
Not more than 1/4 from Omnivore, is the Noe Valley Public Library, where I met Kianna Noval, an avid reader, who was passing by. I asked her about hard-bound books and stores that still offer them, and she told me while she likes paper books, she is really into audiobook platforms.

She thinks that there is still a market for paper books but with today's busy lifestyle, audiobooks are more popular and practical, so she started to make the transition. "I still think is good to have that physical copy, and I recently got into a book club, is good to be able to turn the pages."

Jerahmeel, a Brazilian in love with all art involving food, thinks that Americans don't give much value to books like Brazilians do. When asked what his favorite food is to cook, he says he loves to cook "Moqueca", a very famous seafood dish from the State of Bahia, in Brazil. When asked if he goes online or to a book when he needs to look for a recipe, he said "Books for sure."

Like many people here in the Bay Area, before going somewhere to eat, or before buying a dinner or dessert wine, we usually go online to see reviews. This process gives us a sense of what to expect; a chance to better understand the owner's perspective, native dishes, the restaurants, or winery's clientele, etc. A search will give you specific numbers, OMNIVORE had great public reviews. On Google My Business they scored 4.9 out of 5, and on Yelp, 4.7 out of 5.

Omnivore sells everything from current periodicals dedicated to the



The logo of Omnivore Books on Food located at 3885 Cesar Chavez near Church Street in Noe Valley.

For the history buff, they also sell vintage menus from the 19th and 20th centuries. Adding to this unique methodology, OMNIVORE also has events, like the Author Event, where readers can get to have their book signed by its author in-house. In addition, they promote offsite events related to the culinary industry, with this dedicated to their annual sale during the weekend of September 16 & 17.

Celia was quick to point out that the sale, "Will help us clear out space for the onslaught of fall releases and reward our loyal customers for being so supportive of Omnivore." "Every single book in the shop will be 20% off, and our three big tables will be loaded with 50% off books! So put together your Christmas list early, check it twice, and head on over. And don't forget to bring bags!"

Marco Zanelli, a long-time resident of Noe Valley, self-identifies as, "one of the store's biggest fans" and says he does everything he can to keep stores like Omnivore open and successful members of the community. "As a writer and communicator, myself, I feel that is part of my mission, to keep the art of reading and sharing books alive." He says that the store is also a great resource for what he describes as smart gifts. "I have surrounded myself with intellectual people in my life, but here I know I will always find something to impress, surprise, and sometimes even outsmart them."

The Book is on the Table

By Ricardo De Melo Matos

food industry and its latest trends to vintage and collectible books. They also offer their customers access to a Cookbook Club Membership that includes four new signed books per year shipped on March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.

Owner, Celia Sack, says "When a customer signs for a membership, they usually choose their cookbooks thoughtfully with a specific preference for a type of book, like baking and desserts, or maybe something that includes more vegetables than meat (or vice-versa), or food history & literature, they just let us know."

Ricardo De Melo Matos is a published author and journalist, as well as the Founder & CEO of About Marketing Services, in the San Francisco Bay Area



A little mermaid rested on Sanchez St. in December.

Photo by Steve Vaccaro

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I embarked on my fourth nostalgic jaunt to Noe Valley on a balmy autumn Saturday.

In May of 2022, dispirited by the post-pandemic dissipation of the city that once felt like it belonged solely to me, I began seeking comfort in this outer haven that unwittingly captivated me more than twenty years ago.

Part of the experience is the on-foot excursion to the neighborhood from whatever hotel I am staying at. On this trip, the starting point was Cyril Magnin and Ellis Street, the edge of the Tenderloin. As I ventured on Ellis, I drifted back four decades to my introduction into then-unknown territory.

Newly arrived in San Francisco, an unassuming amble from my "lower Nob Hill" apartment on Bush Street led me downward. Crossing Geary Street, a dissimilar vibe commenced, and a gang of questionable characters hooted at me. One called out, "Hey Baby, you lookin' for a date?"

In the pre-internet 1980s, long before swiping right was a thing, catcalls and woof-whistles ruled the game. Then, at the prime age to receive them, I snickered and scurried by.

A deeper delve into the district revealed a curious camaraderie among folks engaged in card games, dice rolling, and cozy social groups. Enterprising street musicians serenading passersby also added essence to this grittier turf.

Farther down Ellis, I broke from my reverie and navigated around staggering accumulations of debris. I held my jaw up as my heart dropped into the pit of my stomach. Even more crushing was the infinite stream of vacant souls that lined the sidewalk.

A circus performer could have backflipped naked down the street, and no one would have blinked.

The anguish churned in my gut as I soldiered on, stumbling upon a fellow of an undeterminable age ensconced in a building alcove on Market Street with his dog. Overhearing him offer Oreo cookies to the pet, I stopped at a corner market and bought a pop-open can of Purina dog food.

"For your friend," I extended the can and lightly mentioned, "He can't eat Oreo cookies."

"Oh, no! I wasn't giving him cookies." He insisted.

Sure enough, I observed the dog feasting on raw egg (not much better) and kibble.

He told me his name, Chuck, and dog's name, Pepperoni. As I petted the vanil-



Photos by Susan Broxon

Bittersweet Street Sensation

By Susan Broxon

la-shaded, gentle-natured pooch (I'm hopeless at identifying breeds), I listened sympathetically as his master shared that he served in the middle East for twenty years and had no living family members.

However, the conversation became dubious when Chuck stated thirty people chased him and Pepperoni the night before. As he told it, he gestured to a passing vehicle and shouted, "That's them! They're going to jail!"

Pitifully, there was no graceful way to end the encounter. Finally, I blurted, "Well...try to have a good day."

Moving on, visions of Chuck's proud yet decayed smile and the precious Pepperoni curled at his side, hit me with a fresh wave of sorrow.

Off the grid and on Dolores Street, I paused at the park to luxuriate in the sweeping surroundings but was more focused on looking in than out.

I left San Francisco for New York after a year of living in "lower Nob Hill." Returning in 1990, I settled in the Marina district until 2000, when I relocated to an East Bay condominium. In 2006, I sold the property and returned to my hometown, Newport Beach.

My sister Janet rode a steadier course, landing in Noe Valley in 1985 and remaining until she and her family moved to Brunswick, Maine, in 2003.

Over the years, I frequented the community as a guest, but in late 2000, my twin nephews, Aidan and Finn were born, and I stepped more significantly into the scene.

This fourth visit aimed to conquer a vigorously steep hill that led to a long-lost playground I sometimes strolled the boys up to. As it had not been our regular site, I did not recall the Street the enduring slope was on. However, it was too hot once I reached 24th Street for any hill hiking, so I grabbed a smoothie at Martha's Coffee. The

Farmer's Market was bustling in the Square, but a shaded seat opened just as I stepped in.

Regaining clarity, I decided I could return the next day before meeting my friend for lunch.

Elating in the brisker air on Sunday, I ditched Ellis Street and took Market to Dolores. My eyes automatically peeled as I passed building alcoves; I breathed a bittersweet sigh of relief when I did not happen upon Pepperoni and Chuck again.

Up on 24th Street, I searched online and concluded the hill in question must be 28th Street from Sanchez to Douglass.

At 28th Street, I began the trek, fixated on the intricacies of stacked housing. Coming to the multi-level dwelling featuring rickety, roundabout wooden stairs, my shins stiffened, just imagining the prospect of daily ascent.

Then, pushing on, flashbacks of hauling sixty pounds of boys uphill haunted me. In my head, they chanted, "Go faster!" "Go faster!"

Reaching the top at Diamond Heights, I located the Douglass Playground, but it was regrettably not the right center.

Undeterred, I reveled in the wholesome breeze and gazed out over the sprawling horizon. I was in the ideal place to recapture the magic.

Susan Broxon's debut piece, "Farewell for Now," appeared in the November 2003 edition of the *Voice*. Other featured works resulting from her recent nostalgic revisits include "Sunshine and Strawberry Smaltz" (October 2022) and "Sundry Sunday" (January 2023). Currently, she resides in Corona Del Mar, California.

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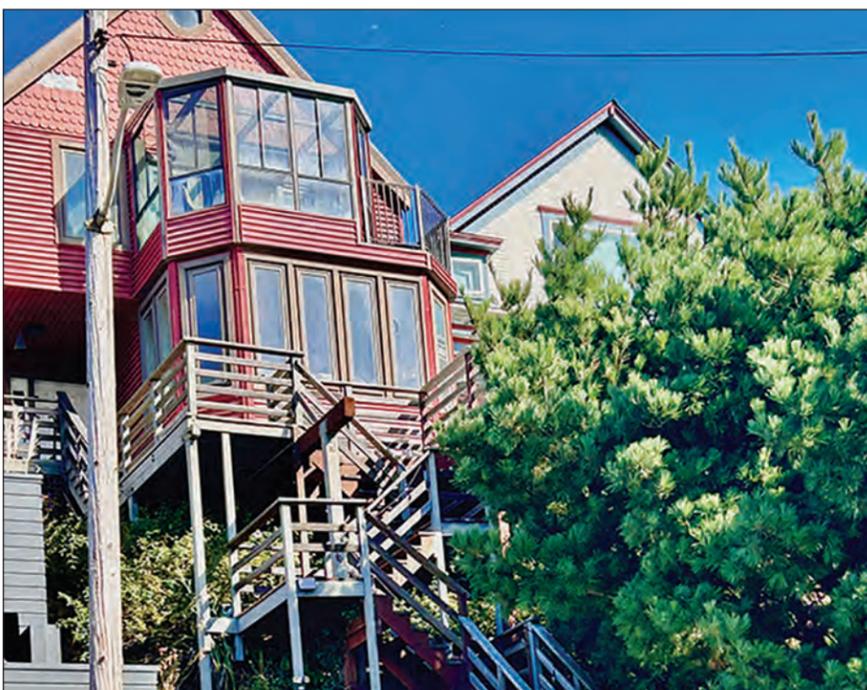
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Not Afraid of Tomorrow

By Grace D'Anca

The power of silence inflates the ghost of absence.
I never know when it will capture the whole of me
feeling cold wind spitting rain that opens patches of sorrow
so I can feel something I don't understand.
I forget about the IRS. I forget about Easter
I look at menus for wisdom I can't afford.
I still fear the bogey in the lightwell but
stray cats come to comfort me at the back door.

I tiptoe to the closet door left ajar
searching for answers and miracles
and old photos that shuffle dance in a cardboard box
your life in pops and snaps
you tried to sort and pick, to find the map of it all.
I put it on a chair pushed under the table.

I still wear my dead like invisible charms on my freckled wrist
to pull in and out of the back of the drawer
to release pain and allow the loneliness
that simmers at dawn and when dusk sets in.
Then, I take off my façade in front of the mirror
the mask that hides tears I can't unsee
words I can't speak in full sentences
salt syllables, flickering memories
in a dark room with no sound.

Someone said stay with the body at the moment of death
when the spirit is the strongest. I stayed
to make sure you were really gone.
You agonized about being stuck alive
with no voice to say so.

I'm finding more of your notes that used to irritate me
the messy scribble demanding to be read to the bottom
to see if there was any sense to the melting ice cream
on the morning counter, a jungle of dishes in the sink
You finally asleep. Your face so open
you almost not breathing. I remember your last breath.
You had that same look.

Your sister wanted to cover you
with her orange hoodie to keep you warm,
she forgot you told her what you didn't need
where you were going.

It doesn't matter if the door is open or shut.
You're not there.
I thought I would refix it right away
that chamber of you
but a soul-tinge keeps me
from filling it with new dreams.

I go in, in increments
and wonder about all that's gone
the machines, the needles, the unrelenting pill crushing
infusions that dammed the inevitable
for fists full of moons, prison for both of us
and the joy in spite of it all
you hunkering down to basketball and news junking.

Time crawls out of bed jostling edgy memories
waiting in the kitchen to ambush me.
I tread a worn path to the front window
to see what movie the world is playing today.
Then I ride waves of joy at Wednesday Zumba
in my holey blue drawstring sweats and beat up sneakers.
I work up the courage to dance in the middle row
stand tall as I can and pulse out all the way to my finger tips
my opportunity to shout, keen, get it all out.

But I always cry during the cool down song.
I pass kids on the monkey bars on the way out
with grandmas and nannies.
They can't see the tears that run under my mask
they don't know that you're forever gone
and that I choose to remember mostly the good
wearing as many hues as possible all at once
I color my hair with beginning
and pull it back to show where I've been
not afraid of tomorrow.

Minnesota native Grace D'Anca came to San Francisco in 1967 in pursuit of the arts. She performed with theater and dance groups in mental health facilities, special programs for youth, and funky church basements. She got interested more in audiences and became a creative arts therapist. Retired now, she is making



Photo by Jack Tipple

When Love Arrives

By Richard Schwartz

I dreamt of you last night
And awakened to mySelf.

Lying on my bed
Flat on my back,
Each moment cherished
As it was.
Like one prepared to greet
A peaceful death
At long last
Surrendered
Content-To-Be.

In the mist of you
I sailed the fall and rise of each breath,
Slowly ascending out towards the horizon's lip,
A savoring of the expanse, then
Diving down into the surge
Across the abyss
And awaiting bliss of aqua-blue release.

Each part of my body, eager for a visit:
Eyelids, sockets,
Left temple, cheek,
A stroll across my forehead.
The journey to coccyx
Led me up the spine to
Softening hips, perineum,
The back of my head and neck.

My wish for a different diagnosis
Than the one received
The day before yesterday
Dissolved all by itself.

This is what happens when love arrives:
What was once incessant shrieking tinnitus
Becomes glorious, celestial sound.

And you,
You are with me,
Welcoming, available,
Felt and known
Through me.

A cantor by profession, Richard Schwartz now manages, and is part of, a talented team of interfaith chaplains at Pathways Home Health and Hospice. He is also among Noe Valley's most recent, proud residents.

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The Conscience of the world is closely related to the way you feel.



Soft: Noe Valley.

Photo by Art Bodner



Photo by Jack Tipple

Two Poems
Carry a Pack

By Daniel Raskin

Trails once logging roads
now rutted
grassy along the crown
wide enough poison oak can't reach.

Up and down through second growth
ending at thousand year mother tree
lightning scarred lumberman spared
good friend for an old man not ready for timber.

Forgot trekking poles
thought it would be flat
no path really is
found a good stick to push along.

Preparations now
load up on Tylenol
lather knees with Tiger Balm
strap on braces
nest orthotic wedges in boots.

Didn't used to carry water
wanted nothing on back
now always a pack.

Tiny Planet

Tiny planet, one day around,
In the middle of nowhere.
What time eternity is nobody knows.

Seven billion spin around.
Only heaven can know us all.

Yet, we dance, like wild horses, like dolphins,
On crushing tectonics, beneath forest canopies,
Above the bone yards of the past,

Daniel Raskin lives in Bernal Heights. He writes with Laguna Writers, The Older Writers Laboratory, at the Bernal Library and with The MERI Center at UCSF.



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SAT JAN 20	SARAH LOHMAN • ENDANGERED EATING: AMERICA'S VANISHING FOODS • 3:00 P.M. FREE! Featuring heirloom cider apples, wild rice, and more, Lohman illuminates why we need to preserve these largely Indigenous culinary customs.
SUN JAN 21	MICHAEL CRUPAIN • THE POWER FIVE: ESSENTIAL FOODS FOR OPTIMUM HEALTH • 3:00 P.M. FREE! A road map to revamp your eating habits for maximum health using whole grains, seafood, nuts and seeds, beans, and fruits and vegetables.
TUES JAN 23	AMANDA HAAS • HOMEMADE SIMPLE: EFFORTLESS DISHES FOR A BUSY LIFE • 6:30 P.M. FREE! A veteran cookbook author's joyful cooking manifesto: eat well, connect with loved ones, and integrate healthy, stress-free meals into your busy life.
SAT JAN 27	SHARON WEE • GROWING UP IN A NONYA KITCHEN: A PERANAKAN FAMILY'S FOOD MEMORIES OF SINGAPORE • 3:00 P.M. FREE! A beautiful cookbook and memoir by a fifth-generation Nonya (honorific for female Peranakans, who were the earliest Chinese settlers to Southeast Asia).
SUN JAN 28	GWEN KENNEALLY • THE PLANTASTIC COOKBOOK • 3:00 P.M. FREE! A lively and flavorful collection of over 90 plant-based recipes to expand the vegan palate developed by an Edible Schoolyard Chef and Director.

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Action SF

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
 Email or link: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
 Meetings: Usually 1st Sunday, Noe Valley Library. 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 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

Comerford Greenway

Contact: Howard Fallon
 Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com
 Website: www.sanfranciscoparksalliance.org/partners/comerford-greenway/
 Monthly workdays in Comerford Alley.

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 Lili Wu, 647-0235. 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)

Contact: 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

noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoo.com

Noe Walks

Contact: Chris Nanda
 Email: christopher.n.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
 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/nert
 Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

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
 Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
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 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm by email or check website.



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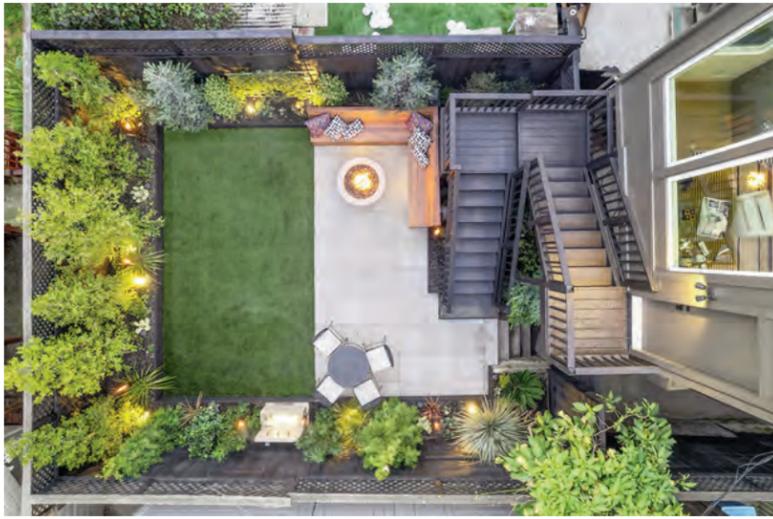
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1298 Treat Ave. | Inner Mission

3 BED | 2 BATH | \$999,000

This designer pad has the option to come fully furnished, just move right in! Luxe 3+ BD|2BA across from Garfield Park - which recently completed a \$20 million dollar renovation. This sunny, corner flat is a welcoming mix of modern and vintage in one flexible floor plan. It boasts hardwood floors, designer lighting, in-unit laundry, and a large shared courtyard. Fully remodeled with spacious kitchen - custom cabinets, recessed and under cabinet lighting, stone counters, high end fixtures and stainless-steel appliances. Four bedrooms, two very generous in size with the third being a perfect guest room or home office. The home has a very flexible layout - currently the 4th bed is now used as a formal dining room - and allows for a variety of configurations to suit your needs. Remodeled baths feature Scott Porcelain Tiles, Grohe fixtures walk in rain shower in one and a deep-soaking tub in the other. A+ location just moments to 24th Street shops, restaurants, coffee, cocktails, farmers market, BART, freeways, and shuttles!

4258 26th St. | Noe Valley

5 BED | 4.5 BATH | \$5,495,000

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 den has pocket doors that convert the room to a guest bedroom for extra guests. A full bath completes this amazing living level. The bedroom level boasts three bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, and private exterior entrance. The opulent primary suite extends over the full width of the residence and features a relaxing ensuite bathroom and a generous deck. The lower level has a spacious media lounge, glass wine vault, two additional bedrooms and baths, and direct access to the backyard. Located a few blocks to coveted Noe Valley's bustling 24th Street, parks and shops!



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