



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Folio Turns the Last Page

Bookstore Will Live On in Our Memories, and Memoirs

By Kit Cameron

In February, the blue Dutch door of the storefront was open to reveal rapidly emptying shelves and tables topped with the remains of a feast of literature. It was time for Folio Books, at 3957 24th St., to wrap up the clever window displays, dole out the dog treats, and bid farewell to its loyal readership. After 10 plus years, the bookstore was closing at the end of the month.

"We're not closing due to lack of support," patiently explained staff member Isaiah Scandrette to the umpteenth query about the closure. "It's not a rent thing."

Folio's five co-owners had simply decided the journey was over. In announcing the news in a Feb. 5 newsletter, they stated their reasons were personal, and asked for privacy.

But despite their reluctance to discuss the decision or speculate on the future of the space, the booksellers—and their customers—were willing to share Great Moments in Bookstore History, during the final shuttering of Noe Valley's last general bookstore.

Three-year veteran Scandrette ("I was hired right before the store reopened after Covid") described himself as "a [Jeff] VanderMeer boy. I love



That Hurts. After 10 years at 3957 24th St., Folio Books called it quits last month. The shop was the only remaining general-interest bookstore in the neighborhood. Photo by Kit Cameron

weird sci-fi. The Southern Reach trilogy is a hilarious long series, spanning different time areas."

Scandrette explained that he and other staffers at Folio each had a passion for a particular literary genre. His was fiction, he said, and "especially weird books that make you uncomfortable."

Operations manager Andrew McIntyre was the go-to staff member for travel and adventure. He started a one-person campaign to champion the historical novel *North Woods*, which McIntyre said became his "favorite of

all time." McIntyre's enthusiasm caused the hefty hardback to fly off the shelves, Scandrette said.

Folio co-owner Katerina Argyres, a reader of fantasy for over 30 years, was always eager to share her deep knowledge of the subject.

Co-owner Alissa Hugel began her bookstore career as a teen hanging out after school at Cover to Cover Booksellers, which occupied the space where Cocoon Day Spa is now for nearly three decades. "After a while,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Restaurants Multiplying on 24th Street

Make Room for Half a Dozen New Eateries

By Matthew S. Bajko and Corrie M. Anders

With several new eateries set to open in 2024, and established restaurants attracting renewed attention, the dining scene in Noe Valley is generating plenty of buzz these days. All that food talk—not to mention the dishes on the menus—could spice up the neighborhood as a destination for diners across the city.

One of the latest newcomers is **Fiorella Italian Restaurant**, which is taking over the defunct Patxi's Pizza location at 4042 24th St. Although awaiting final signoffs from various city agencies, construction workers were busy in January refurbishing the dining space in anticipation of a spring launch.

"We hope to open by mid-May," said Fiorella chef Brandon Gillis.

The trattoria will seat 65 to 75 diners. It will have a neighborhood ambiance and serve foods Gillis described as "approachable and authentic."

He and co-owner Boris Nemchenok jointly operate Fiorella eateries in the city's Richmond District, Inner Sunset,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Use Your Flower Power: Help Plant the Seeds

James Lick Invites Neighbors To Community Garden Day

By Kit Cameron

Anyone who remembers the upper schoolyard at James Lick Middle School as a vast concrete desert may want to revisit the space and see how it is slowly but surely becoming an inviting open space for students and the community.

You can be part of the story on Saturday, March 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., when a group of student families and neighborhood volunteers revive the four raised beds near the school building by preparing the soil and planting bulbs and seeds donated by the Parent Teacher Student Association.

Among the plants being considered are squash, carrots, and potatoes, plus edible herbs and flowers.

If getting dirt under your fingernails isn't your thing, you can help by painting the garden toolshed.

Gina Cockburn, the parent of a seventh-grader, promises a "fun day" and asks only that people pre-register at RSVP to PTSA leadership at ptsa@jameslickmiddleschool.org. (Add in the subject line 'RSVP Yes to



The Plot Thickens: A work crew was out at the upper yard gardens last month, digging compost into the soil to prepare for a March 16 planting of flowers, vegetables, and herbs at James Lick Middle School.

Photo courtesy Gina Cockburn

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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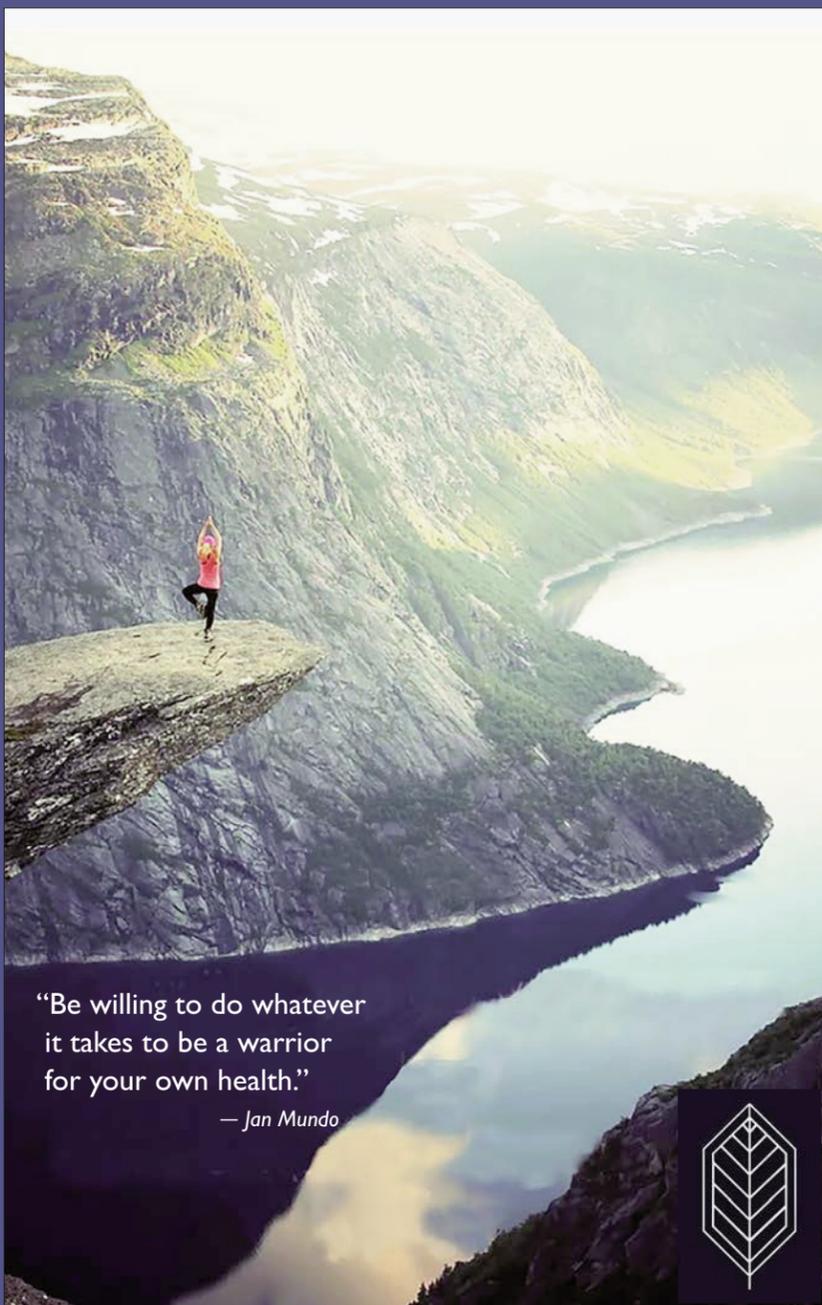
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CRIME SNAPSHOT

Reporting Up in January

Noe Valley rang in the new year with one less reported crime than last year—that is, if you are comparing total incidents in January 2024 (78) to the total for January a year ago (79).

But no one was cheering.

According to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports, the neighborhood saw a rise in crime from December to January. Seven more incidents were reported in January, in the 10 categories that the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly. (December's total was 71.)

Of the 78 clocked in January, the largest number (32) fell in the larceny-theft category. Residents and merchants reported 13 car break-ins, 12 package thefts, two stolen license plates, and five shoplifting incidents (four of them in the vicinity of Castro and Jersey streets). That was eight more than in December but the same as in January a year ago. There also was an increase in burglaries, with 19 reported during the month, compared to five in December (and 11 the previous January). And police received three reports of family or intimate partner violence. The number was zero in December.

The good news was that vehicle thefts were down, with citizens calling in just eight in January, the lowest number since June 2022 (7). Assaults also declined month to month.

FYI, the *Voice* culled the January data on Feb. 8, from Data.sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA

Noe Valley Incident Reports January 2023 – January 2024

Incident Type	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	Sep23	Oct23	Nov23	Dec23	YTD23	Jan24
Larceny/Theft	32	17	21	15	34	30	35	27	26	34	39	24	334	32
Burglary	11	10	13	13	7	19	25	20	23	21	20	5	187	19
Malicious Mischief	3	4	9	9	4	16	13	10	8	11	11	7	105	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	10	14	10	10	20	27	17	15	11	12	12	173	8
Assault	7	3	8	2	5	3	2	4	2	1	5	7	49	3
Robbery	1	0	3	0	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22	2
Other Misc.	5	5	6	5	0	3	1	4	3	3	7	11	53	3
Fraud	3	3	1	0	3	6	2	5	6	2	5	1	37	4
Family D.Violence	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	3
Vandalism	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9	1
Totals	79	55	76	55	66	102	109	90	85	86	102	71	976	78

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 *Noe Valley Voice* gathered the **January 2024 data on Feb. 8, 2024.** "Noe Valley" on the SFPD's digital map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.
Noe Valley Voice March 2024

LETTERS 66 CENTS

Name That Band

Dear Editor and Mr. Guillermo:

Thank you for pointing out the error I made in my story "Last Dance?", published in the January 2024 literary edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

In his letter to the editor in the February issue, Gil Guillermo noted that Los Jefes was the band that was featured at the Noe Valley Town Square last May, not Anthony Blea's orchestra, as I had mistakenly written.

To my ears, those young musicians in Los Jefes sounded like quite a polished group, so kudos to their leader, Ceferino Tucker-Vergara. Please accept my apology for the error.

Sincerely,
Laila Kramer

A Great Loss

Editor:

It was with a great deal of sadness and disappointment that I learned last month that Folio Books was shutting its doors at the end of February.

For a decade now, Folio Books, with its pleasing and welcoming atmosphere, has been an important part of the Noe Valley community and served it well with a reliable and well-stocked shop where friendly and knowledgeable staff have always been on hand to help and guide shoppers with their various and eclectic book needs.

As one who in his younger years worked in a bookshop, I can attest to the fact that the selling of books is really like no other retail experience. It is not like selling ties or delivering plates of pasta to tables. You deal daily with people's tastes and reading passions

and are often called upon to make suggestions and recommendations based on your knowledge of the customers. In the course of this interaction, you very often strike up friendships and satisfying long-term relationships with many in the reading public.

My shopping visits to 24th Street will now seem sorely diminished without my being able to stroll into Folio's for some book browsing or perhaps just to chat with one of the likable book-sellers.

It's a great loss to Noe Valley.
Bruce Dettman
30th Street

Ceasefire the Litmus Test

Editor:

Thank you for providing a forum for us residents of Noe Valley to debate the issues more concerning to us. And at this time, no other issue is more pressing than our government's continuing financial and political support for Israel's assault on Gaza and the West Bank.

As one who along with my family has participated in many pro-Palestinian protests before and after the events of October 7, it was empowering to see so many of our neighbors at the Vigil for Gaza in January.

Unfortunately, none of our elected officials were in attendance. Nor have I seen any of them at any pro-Palestinian event. Which begs the question: how have we in Noe Valley come to be represented by Zionist supporters at every level of our government? From Supervisor Mandelman and Mayor Breed locally, to Senator

Wiener and Governor Newsom at the state level, to Senators Butler and Padilla, Representative Pelosi, and finally President Biden, none have been willing to call for a ceasefire. None have been willing to call for an end to the U.S. unconditional support for Israel.

The answer is that no politician begins their career as a vocal supporter of Israel. But Zionist money and support from Zionist organizations like JCRC and AIPAC help propel politicians up the political ladder. That is why it is crucial that we are aware of politicians' sentiments towards Israel early on. This could be done very simply if local news media such as the *Noe Valley Voice* ask prospective politicians if they would have voted for the S.F. ceasefire resolution [passed 8-3 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Jan. 9]. As for me, any who would not will never have my vote.

In community.
Bernie Corace

The Wolf and the Eagle

By Dan Murphy

The Wolf has caught our Eagle by the tail, shaking lightning bolts and olive branch, from the claws of our National bird, leaving us to wonder what is happening to

America, to her vaunted history of welcoming immigrants, helping the downtrodden, devotion to the poor. The Wolf has shown himself a mad creature, but what of the gullible Mice who follow him? Will they spot the Wolf beneath his long red tie, his hair dyed yellow, his face painted orange? Will they realize he is not a Christian saint, but the Antichrist in a baggy blue suit?

Dan Murphy is a retired trial attorney and a longtime contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

P.O. Box 460249
San Francisco, CA 94146
www.noevalleyvoice.com

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published in San Francisco. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity during the first week of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

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.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Email: Editor@noevalleyvoice.com
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Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Distribution: Call Jack, 415-385-4569

Display Advertising: Call Pat, 415-608-7634,
or email PatRose@noevalleyvoice.com

Display Advertising Deadline for the
April 2024 Issue: March 20, 2023

Editorial Deadline: March 15, 2023

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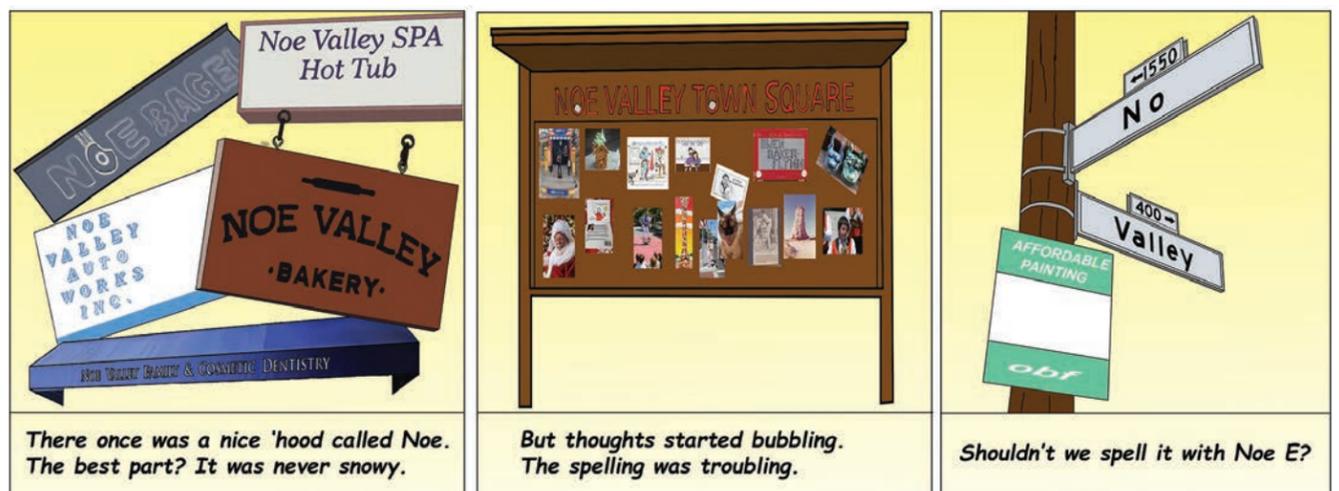
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



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But thoughts started bubbling. The spelling was troubling.

Shouldn't we spell it with Noe E?

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Lent, Holy Week & Easter Events

Meditative Labyrinth Walk

Take a Path that leads to Inner Peace
 Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 24

Procession of the Palms
 A Worship of Joyful Noise!

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Soup, Supper, & Communion
 Service with Handwashing, 6:00 p.m.

Easter Morning, March 31

A Worship Celebration with Guest Musicians!
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Holy Week services:

- Sunday, March 24 10AM – Palm Sunday Procession
- Thursday, March 28 6PM – Maundy Thursday Congregational Dinner -- A time to give thanks for community
- Friday, March 29 7PM – Good Friday -- Solemn commemoration of the Crucifixion
- Saturday, March 30 4PM – Children's Vigil with campfire stories and s'mores
- Saturday, March 30 8PM – Great Vigil of Easter - ancient service with today's values
- Sunday, March 31 9AM – Easter Sunday with Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, March 31 11AM – Easter Sunday with festal choir

Our inclusive services create space for reflection and, ultimately, celebration. All are welcome to receive Communion, where ever you are on your spiritual journey.

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Evening Prayer at 7 pm *

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Liturgy at 7 pm

Good Friday, March 29

Prayer & Meditation, Noon to 3 pm *
 Stay as long or as little as you like
 Good Friday Liturgy at 7 pm

Saturday, March 30

Great Vigil of Easter at 7 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31

Feast of the Resurrection at 8 am & 10 am

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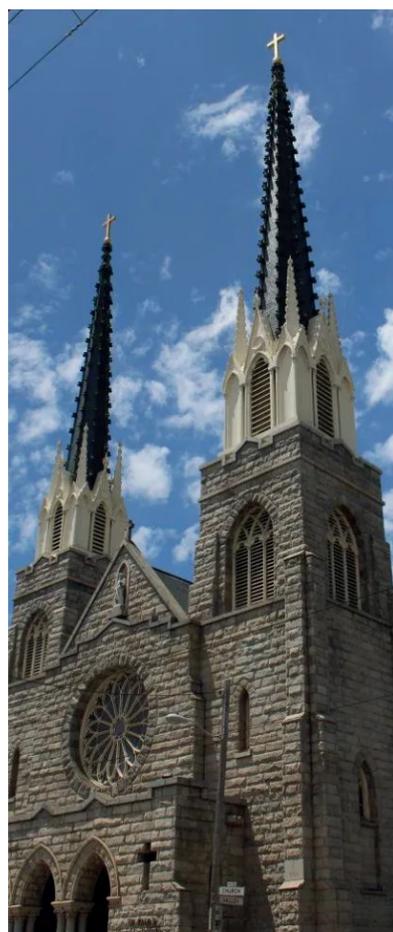
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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2024 Holy Week Schedule



Saturday March 23 Vigil Mass 4:30

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday Masses March 24
 8.00 am | 9.30 am

HOLY THURSDAY

March 28 6.00 pm
 Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29
 11.00 am - Noon
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Noon - 3.00 pm
 Good Friday Services

HOLY SATURDAY

March 30
 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 7.30 pm Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday Masses March 31
 8.00 am | 9.30 am

On Regular Sundays, join us for
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On top of all of this, Danielle is a great person and, as you would expect, the people on her team are also very nice. I recommend Danielle for any real estate transaction in San Francisco. She is exceptional, and would be an asset to anyone buying or selling real estate."

- Zak M.



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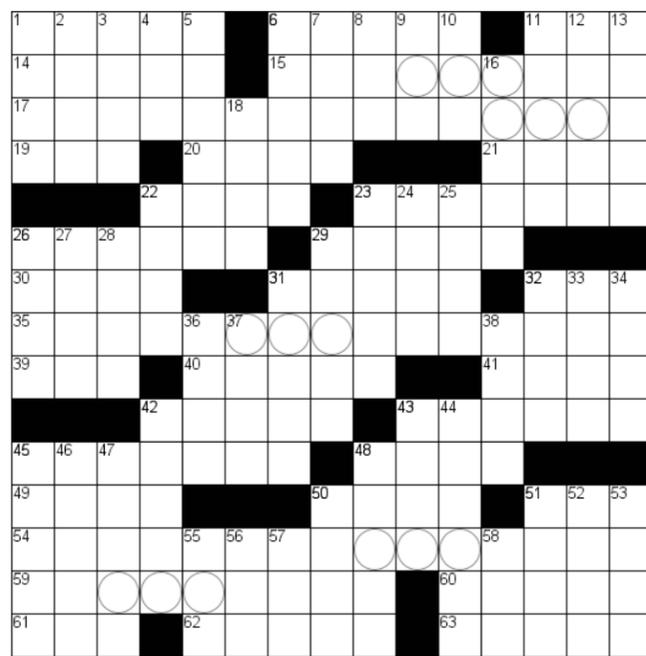
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Reading the Leaves

ACROSS

1. Cooks in the oven
6. Apprehensive feeling
11. "CSI" evidence, often
14. Top group
15. Reached a high but couldn't go higher
17. "The Undersea World" guy
19. Pose a question
20. Some jobs at Reform Hair Salon
21. Noe Valley author ___ Yenne
22. Prevarications
23. Hair-spray brand
26. What you can still rent on 24th Street (Ha, Blockbuster!)
29. Cigar hollowed out and filled with cannabis
30. "I had no ___!"
31. Braid
32. Setting that ends on 3/10/24: Abbr.
35. Early Girl alternative in the garden
39. Sixth sense
40. "Wake Up, Little ___": Everly Brothers hit
41. Persia, today
42. Ann ___, MI
43. Act as captain
45. Toes, to tots
48. Give three stars, say
49. Smell
50. NaCl
51. Bikini part
54. Noe Valley place that serves sandwiches on tiered trays... and this puzzle's inspiration
59. Aardvarks and pangolins
60. Apartment you own
61. Civil liberties: Abbr.
62. "___ easy to fall in



- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| love" (1977 lyric) | 22. What's out on a limb | 44. "Sic 'em!" |
| 63. Leg joints | 23. "Aw, go jump in ___!" | 45. ___ bear (white beast) |
| DOWN | 24. "You can't fire me. I ___" | 46. "___ get it" ("Huh?") |
| 1. Lower California, familiarly | 25. Golden Rule preposition | 47. Those in power, nationally: Abbr. |
| 2. "Sad to say..." | 26. Bad ___ (uneasy feeling) | 48. ___ Rizzo (Dustin Hoffman role) |
| 3. Gun's recoil | 27. "Beware the ___ of March" | 50. Georgia and Ukraine, once: Abbr. |
| 4. Atty's title | 28. Profound | 51. Trad ___ Broth on 24th Street |
| 5. Moonshot ___: candle making on 24th Street | 29. Former British P.M. Tony | 52. Came by horse |
| 6. Altars' areas | 31. Monterrey moolah | 53. "Famous" cookie name |
| 7. World Series lead-in: Abbr. | 32. Meter or graph opening | 55. ___ alai |
| 8. Congressional watchdog agency: Abbr. | 33. Daddy deer | 56. A giant among Giants |
| 9. Good name for a gumbo maker | 34. Color quality | 57. "Affirmative" |
| 10. Your, in Tours | 36. Prozac or Zoloft: Abbr. | 58. "Apollo 13" director Howard |
| 11. Expected to arrive | 37. Toothpaste container | |
| 12. Author Zora ___ Hurston | 38. Where coal is found | |
| 13. Grownup | 42. Feel the same | |
| 16. Cousin of a plate appearance | 43. Boar or buck | |
| 18. Glimpse | | |

2024 March Noe Valley Voice

Solution on Page 21
 Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

Local Dining Scene Whetting Appetites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Russian Hill neighborhoods. They're excited to now be expanding into Noe Valley, Gillis said.

"It's a great neighborhood, really diverse with families and a good mix of commercial. Frankly, it's bustling over there," he said.

On Tuesday, March 12, Shari Dominici will debut her new restaurant **Dumpling Kitchen Noe Valley** at 3913 24th St. She has teamed up with Michael Shao, owner of the local chain, to open its fifth location in the Bay Area. The menu will feature several fish and poultry entrees unique to the location.

"They have good Shanghai-style dumplings that are homemade," said Dominici.

As for the décor, it is getting "a revamp, with a modern Asian design," said Dominici.

At the end of January, she closed her Italian eatery **Bacco Ristorante**, which she had moved into the former **Savor Open Kitchen** space in the fall of 2020 from its original location at 737 Diamond St. Her late husband, Paolo Dominici, had opened **Bacco** in 1993 along with its first executive chef Vincenzo Cucco.

With **Bacco** only open for dinner, as lunch never took off, the financials didn't work, said Dominici, for the restaurant's large footprint, which includes a spacious backyard patio in addition to the indoor dining area. She hopes dumplings will draw in the midday crowds, as there isn't another eatery in the neighborhood that focuses on the filled dough delicacies.

"The thing is that I love Italian food. It is my passion. I am missing it already," Dominici said. "But lunch did not fly. I have to do something that will give me a lunch and dinner crowd."

The restaurant will be open weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m. but closed on Wednesdays. On weekends it will stay open from 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. The early opening time is because "people with young children will feed them dumplings in the morning," said Dominici.



Shari Dominici, Michael Shao, and Jackie Sima are busy redesigning the former **Bacco** at 3913 24th St. to present a new **Dumpling Kitchen**, open for lunch and dinner. Photo by Art Bodner

Down the block at 3945 24th St., Peruvian restaurant **Fresca** is planning to reopen its long-shuttered space, closed since 2020. The restaurant had announced last October it was giving the Noe Valley space a complete makeover after deciding to close its **Inner Sunset** location.

Fresca has yet to announce an opening date. In January, it debuted a new logo via its Facebook page, along with a teaser about its plans.

"As we step into 2024, we're excited for our remodeled location in Noe Valley to reopen its doors to all our amazing guests and **Fresca** family," noted the post.

Tortas and Chicken Roti

Set to open later this month at 4063 24th St. is **Todo el Dia**, a new eatery from **Tacolicious** co-owner Joe Hargrave that will feature rotisserie chicken and tortas, meat-filled Mexican sandwiches. The local chain's head chef, Fernando Guzman, has been overseeing the development of the menu, which will include quiche, blue corn masa breakfast tacos, and a coffee program in the mornings.

"We are looking to open around March 20," said Hargrave.

He and his ex-wife, Sara Deseran,

used to live in Noe Valley with their children. Back in 2012 Hargrave was in talks to take over the former **Hans Hibachi** restaurant space on Castro Street near 24th but ended up shelving the project. A year ago, the owners of **Village Rotisserie** called him after deciding to close their Australian-style roasted chicken dinners and sandwiches restaurant and asked if he wanted to buy it.

"I have had a rotisserie chicken concept kicking around forever. But I never pulled the trigger on it until now," said Hargrave. "I always wanted to do it and always wanted to do that in that neighborhood."

He chose the name **Todo el Dia**, which means all day in Spanish, since the restaurant will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Lunch will start at 11 a.m. and feature four tortas, four tacos, and four salads, plus the rotisserie chicken.

The "nice, sunny patio" in back will once again welcome diners and their dogs. "Oh yeah! Oh god yeah, we are dog friendly," promised Hargrave.

No Longer a Wallflower

Nearby on the other side of the street, at 4018 24th St., the long-gestating Palestinian restaurant

Wallflower hopes to finally open this year. Owner Samir Salameh had first announced in 2019 his decision to open the eatery in the space formerly home to **La PanotiQ** bakery, which had shuttered two years prior.

Salameh's family owns the building, and he lives in one of the upstairs units. It will be his first time running a restaurant, as he's been focused on his design-consulting and home-staging company **Room Service**. He is currently in the process of hiring a chef and hopes to be open by the spring.

"It's been a long time coming," said Salameh. "I have never opened a restaurant, and it's been a learning experience, to say the least. I hope the community will grant us some grace when we open."

In addition to the 40-seat eatery, which will include a brunch menu on weekends, Salameh will offer catering services. The name, originally chosen when he thought he would open a wine bar, may change, he told the *Voice*.

"I hope to bring to the neighborhood Palestinian flavors in fresh, new ways," he said. "I live here. My home is here. This is my neighborhood. It is important to me to share that experience with the neighborhood."

Meanwhile, a Hawaiian import called **Banán**, which makes banana-based dairy-free soft serve frozen desserts and smoothies, is planning to open a "shack" in late spring at 3862 24th St., next door to **Martha & Brothers Coffee**. As Noe Valley will be **Banán's** first location outside of Honolulu, it is expected to draw customers from throughout the Bay Area.

New Eateries a Welcome Addition

The new eateries join several others that opened their doors in 2023, such as **Bistro Ember** at 1298 Church St. and **Memento SF** at 1305 Castro St. Early last year **Mamahuhu** also opened its third location at 3991 24th St., reviving the long-dormant dining spot that eatery **Toast** had vacated in 2019.

Rather than seeing the influx of new restaurants as potentially hurting his business, Mike McCaffery, who co-owns **Mr. Digby's** at 1199 Church St. near 24th, told the *Voice* he welcomes them to the neighborhood. They can only bolster Noe Valley as a dining destination in the city at a time when other neighborhoods, such as the **Valencia Street** corridor and the financial district, are contending with a glut of closed restaurants.

"We never see new restaurants opening as competition. We are always rooting for anybody who chooses to get into this business," said McCaffery, who is encouraged by the growth "not just on 24th Street but all of Noe Valley. We want to create a community of fun, new, exciting dining experiences and opportunities for our neighborhood, with the goal ultimately of it being a place talked about as one of the most exciting in all of San Francisco."

He and wife Kristen Gianaras McCaffery opened their corner bistro in the spring of 2021, during a challenging time for restaurateurs. Like other businesses, they were dealing with the fallout from Covid, plus higher costs for food and labor.

One change they made to their menu, in response to customer feedback, was adding more vegetarian options to the salad, burger, and seafood fare.

While the wet winter has had a negative impact, McCaffery said business at **Mr. Digby's** was good in December.

Talking to the *Voice* the morning after Valentine's Day, he noted the



Tracy Goh hopes fresh flavors and spring weather bring diners to her Malaysian restaurant **Damansara** on Church Street. Photo by Art Bodner

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

New Restaurants And Old Reliables

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

restaurant had been packed for the annual romantic holiday.

“The secret sauce for us is to always be approachable and adaptable enough to serve what our neighbors are telling us they want. We are going to keep doing that,” said McCaffery. “A huge part of our success has just been the good fortune we have had finding the people to be part of our team.”

Construction Obstruction

Mr. Digby’s also has responded to customers’ wishes by adding more outdoor seating in its parklet on 24th Street.

At some point, however, the parklet will have to be removed, because of a planned construction project that will dig up 24th Street. The McCafferys won a delay in the work last fall, and with other business owners, have been in talks with city officials and PG&E about the project’s new schedule. “This is a huge project that is going to affect all the businesses on 24th Street,” said McCaffery. “We are trying to get them to commit to a timeframe that has the least impact on the businesses. A lot of us, especially restaurants who now have the benefit of added outdoor seating, need to capitalize on the months when the weather is good.”

Business also has bounced back at **Hi-Way Burger & Fry**, after some slow months late last year, said manager David Nah. As usual, less-than-ideal weather was the culprit.

“It’s good now,” said Nah, as customers popped in and out last month,

picking up orders of reasonably priced hamburgers, hot dogs, and French fries from the small shop, which opened in 2018 at 3853 24th St. “The thing I like is that more families are coming in.”

Many of them, he noted, purchase food items, “then go sit in the [Town Square] park” just a few steps away.

Damansara Reintroduces Itself

February also looked brighter at **Damansara**, the 48-seat Malaysian restaurant that opened in October 2022 in the former Ardiana at 1781 Church St., near 30th Street.

“Fortunately, things have been picking up,” owner Tracy Goh said. “Between last year and January, we were struggling a lot. We were doing really poorly.”

Things were so dire that the restaurant was the focus of a gloomy *San Francisco Chronicle* article (Jan. 13, 2024), in which Goh admitted she had considered closing the dining room.

Goh confirmed to the *Voice* that expenses directly related to restaurant operations were considerable—running \$35,000 to \$45,000 a month. That included employee salaries of \$35,000 to \$45,000, rental costs of \$6,000, utilities at around \$1,900, and about \$5,500 for foods and alcoholic beverages. Yet, she was serving only a handful of customers a day. January’s stormy weather didn’t help.

“Last year at this time, we had the rains and the floods. My staff couldn’t get to work and customers were not coming in,” Goh said. “There was really bad weather for weeks, and we just closed,” temporarily for two months.

In addition, Goh said, “we were still new in the neighborhood, and people didn’t know about us yet.”

To boost revenue, Goh launched a

brunch service in June. But “we were just losing money every weekend. No one wanted to eat what we were serving for brunch,” she said. She ended it six months later.

Goh also junked her brief idea to revive her food truck, which she had successfully operated for seven years, until 2020.

Instead, she started tinkering with her menu, going to food tastings, and networking with other restaurant chefs.

Goh is keeping her popular central Malaysian dishes, like beef rendang stew and laksa noodle soups, with chicken, fish, and shrimp, as well as an assortment of vegan options.

She also has added seasonal specials, such as a “three-way” Dungeness crab. (It consists of three half crabs, each made in a different sauce, with a side of deep-fried bread.)

She is doing more outreach on social media and via her newsletter, “to stay in touch with my long-term clientele, to give them a reason to come back.”

Hours at the restaurant are now 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Her fans are returning.

“I don’t know how long it will last,” Goh said, but “I hope to keep the momentum going.”

Hanging Tough

Firefly, a Noe Valley mainstay since 1993, was also the subject of a recent news story. A Dec. 5 headline on SFGate.com declared, “San Francisco neighborhood restaurant is begging you to keep it alive.”

Yet, chef and co-owner Brad Levy told the *Voice*, “Business is good.” While he found the headline “a bit alarmist,” he said the media attention caused a surge in customers. Patrons came in droves to support the eatery, at

4288 24th St. They also contributed to a GoFundMe page, created in October.

Levy, who runs Firefly with co-owner and chef Haley Sausner, did agree with the story’s premise that operating a neighborhood restaurant was not all wine and roses.

“It’s not getting easier for little restaurants like us,” said Levy. “The cost of labor has gone up. The cost of goods has gone up, and, the cost of food, our main ingredients, has gone up from 30 to 50 percent” over the last few years.

The restaurant, however, is limited in how much of the cost it can pass on to customers, said Levy. “If you do it, they say, ‘Oh my god, you’re so expensive.’”

Instead, Levy said Firefly plans to meet its challenges by “being smarter about how we do our business” and by maintaining its customer base.

“We’ve been here 30 years, and we’ve faced down some difficult times—during the dot.com bust, after September 11, and the recession,” he said. “We’re not a big money maker. We’re a little restaurant, so when things go south, it can affect us.”

Operating the restaurant remains a “labor of love” for Levy. “We don’t have hopes of getting rich. We didn’t at the very beginning,” Levy said. “And we don’t have any plans of going anywhere.”

Like Levy, Mike McCaffery of Mr. Digby’s said that despite the hardships of running a food business, he and Kristen are in it for the long haul.

“We want to be a place that is a staple for people who just moved to the neighborhood and for people who have been here forever,” he said. “We want them to know Mr. Digby’s is going to be a cornerstone of the neighborhood.” ■



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2024 started with a bang. All of Jessica's listings so far have been inundated with people, piles of disclosure packages were requested, and the listings received multiple offers. Behind the scenes, there is more nuance to the story. Sellers are awaiting the perfect storm of lower interest rates and a confirmed SF comeback to propel prices back to the highs of the first quarters of 2022. Buyers are still extremely picky despite willingly competing for those unicorn properties that come up only once in a blue moon. And insurance companies are throwing a wrench into sales of homes with knob and tube wiring and / or old roofs. The stock market is soaring, AI companies are gobbling up office space, and the city feels a bit fresher. One of Jessica's January Noe Valley listings went \$400K over the list price! Jessica Branson is one of the City's top listing agents, having close to 20 years of experience selling SF real estate, and she is a top realtor in your neighborhood. Sellers trust Jessica's deep business background, her proven track record of success, and her shark-like negotiating skills. Call Jessica today for a no-strings truth-telling about your home's value in today's market!

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Last Chapter for Folio Books

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I put her to work. I started asking her to dust,” said Paula Foley, former owner of Cover to Cover and founder and current co-owner of Folio. “She came back after we opened [Folio] and sent us a resume.”

Hugel, a specialist in children’s and young adult fiction, could always help a befuddled gift giver (guilty as charged) find the perfect book.

Bookworms and Author Readings

The store became famous over the years for author visits, including those of the eclectic Odd Mondays series. An event for sci-fi/fantasy author Martha Wells “sold out” at 140 seats. Not that anyone paid anything. Folio’s events were always free.

“I loved organizing community events,” said co-owner Martha Dietzel. “I founded the Bookworms program for kids aged 8 to 12 [in 2014], and it was probably one of my favorite things I ever did at Folio. Alissa took on running the program in 2015. We had a Scrabble night, a trivia night, a painting night, and even a kitten adoption event. We had guest authors, but we also would have events where we did crafts or just talked about what we were reading. Seeing some of those kids return to the store in their 20s [was] very special!”

Dietzel went on to say, “We have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful local authors, like Katie Hafner, Judd Winick, Brandon Brown, Bill Yenne, and Mary McNear. We have hosted some great signing sessions with (nationally known authors such as) Charlie Jane Anders, Maggie Tokuda-Hall, and Annalee Newitz.”

Folio was able to attract high-profile authors because of its “lovely base of fans,” said Scandrette. “This is an amazing neighborhood. Events were not for money making. We were giving something back.”

“One of my favorite customers was a husband who came in every Christmas and would have me pick out eight to ten fantasy or sci-fi novels for his wife,” said Dietzel. “Each year, he would come back and say, ‘Those were all a hit. What do you have for me this year?’ I loved that.”

Many Talents on Display

And what about those eye-catching window displays?

“[They] have always been one of my



Operations manager Andrew McIntyre hugs Patti Plantz, a Noe Valley resident who has been an ardent fan of Folio Books since the shop opened in 2013. Photo by Art Bodner



Customers browse the diminishing inventory during the final week of Folio. The store at 3957 24th St. closed its doors on Feb. 29.

Photo by Art Bodner

favorite things about working in a bookstore, and I was lucky enough to work with other folks that felt the same way,” said Dietzel. “Alissa, Katerina, and I would consistently come up with more and more elaborate ideas for windows, and for every window, we would build bigger and better props. I think our best window ever was our Dungeons and Dragons window last spring. Alissa’s chalk art was also another highlight of our displays.”

What’s next for staff and owners? Dietzel confesses she doesn’t know what she is going to do next. “Take some time off. I’m really going to miss this place.”

Scandrette said he plans to travel to Ireland. “I love Irish history and Irish literature, but I’ve never been there.”

And Foley, who has been fully retired for two years, divulged, “I enjoy being an introvert again. The whole time I was at the store, I loved talking to customers, but when I went home I was glad not to talk to people.

“It won’t be long before there will be another bookstore [in Noe],” opined Foley. “I believe there will be a new store with lots of energy and ideas. Every small business is important on the street. It’s a community of businesses that depend on each other. The better other stores do, the better you’ll do.”

Customers Feeling the Loss

But where will readers go for books now?

Sixteen-year Noe Valley resident Jale Yoldas asked just that question.

“Where will we go? It’s just so sad. Folio has a lot of kids’ books. I have an 11-year-old and a 4-year-old. I was already sad when Charlie’s Corner closed,” Yoldas lamented.

Noe Valley mystery writer Cara Black, who signed numerous first editions of her Aimée Leduc Investigations series at Folio, was also bereft. “Where will I buy a book that I’m dying to read by walking just a few blocks from my house and crack it open with a coffee from Bernie’s on her bench? *Bon voyage, mes amies*,” she wished the staff. Books by Kate DiCamillo were

or Dog Eared Books on Valencia.

Others suggested Bird & Beckett in Glen Park or Fabulosa in the Castro.

“I certainly will miss the convenience, the staff’s friendliness, and [Folio’s] service of ordering books for you,” said customer Kathy Rockel. “I would wander in and always some book would catch my eye that I had to have, and sometimes I would scamper on by and not stop, because funds were low in the Exchequer!”

Before Folio existed, 24th Street had other bookstores, including Cover to Cover and San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, both of which closed in 2011, and Charlie’s Corner, which lasted almost five years but was hobbled by the Covid shutdown in 2020. Phoenix New and Used Books occupied a couple of different storefronts on 24th Street from 1985 until its eventual demise in 2013.

Paula Foley and husband John took over Phoenix’s lease in November 2013 and created Folio Books, adding co-owners Dietzel, Hugel, and Argyres in 2021.

“I opened Folio Books in 2013 with the philosophy that each person through the door and each book on our shelves should be another chance to create a happy outcome,” Paula Foley wrote in an October 2021 letter to the *Noe Valley Voice*. “I can’t think of a better place than Noe Valley to have a bookstore—a neighborhood full of readers, and kind, caring, and smart ones at that.”

As Folio’s last day approached, reader Leslie Crawford, a longtime resident of 24th Street, was looking for that second chance. “I am heartbroken,” she said. “Aside from the Town Square, [Folio] is the heart of the neighborhood. Somehow, we have to bring back a bookstore.” ■

thdraw for 12-year-old Sophia Terbell and her mother Jenny Terbell. Jenny said, “We’ve been coming [to Folio] since we moved here 10 years ago.” With the store closed, they might have to trek across town to Green Apple, “another great store, just further away,”



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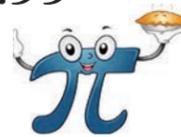
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1900 Diamond Project on Indefinite Hold

Developer Waiting for Market To Improve

By Matthew S. Bajko

Two years after securing city approval to build 24 new luxury homes on the hillside where Diamond Street meets Diamond Heights Boulevard, developer Marc Babsin has yet to break ground on the project. Nor does he expect to begin construction anytime soon.

The city's planning commission had signed off on the 1900 Diamond project in February 2022, and Babsin had hoped to start construction last fall. But like other stalled housing developments around the city, Babsin's infill project has been negatively affected by high interest rates, more expensive construction costs, and soaring insurance prices.

The trifecta of issues has led him and other developers to decide it may not be financially feasible at the moment to proceed with their projects.

"Given the state of the housing market, we are still on hold for the foreseeable future," Babsin told the *Voice* in late January.

His project down the street from the Diamond Heights Safeway shopping center is to have 10 duplexes and four single-family residences. Ten of the Monterey cypress trees on the sloped property are to be preserved.

A staircase is to run the length of the hillside from Diamond Street up to Diamond Heights Boulevard, providing a pedestrian pathway between the Upper Noe and Diamond Heights neighborhoods.

A publicly accessible deck with sweeping views of Noe Valley, the city's downtown skyline, and San Francisco Bay is to be built above one of the residences.

On Diamond LLC, an affiliate of Babsin's Emerald Fund, bought the land from the Cesar Chavez

Foundation, which continues to own the adjacent Vista Del Monte affordable-housing complex. The organization intends to funnel the proceeds of the sale into constructing new affordable-housing developments in California.

Babsin agreed to pay close to \$3 million to the mayor's housing office to be put toward an affordable-housing project elsewhere in the city in exchange for being able to sell at market prices all of the new housing units he intends to construct.

Critics of Babsin's development had wanted to see the Diamond Heights land used solely for affordable housing. In the end, they reached a compromise with Babsin that resulted in their dropping their opposition.

Diamond Heights Community Association co-president Betsy Eddy was among the leaders of the group 1900 Diamond for All, which had initially fought against Babsin's plans. Because their agreement with Babsin included not commenting publicly about the project, Eddy declined to talk with the *Voice* about its two-year delay.

Jim Chappell, an urban planner and the former executive director and president of the urban planning think tank SPUR, had supported Babsin's project. He has kept in touch with Babsin over the years about the status of it.

"They obviously want to get going as quickly as they can. They spent a lot of money on it. They want to get it open, just as all of us in the community want to see it get done," Chappell said in early February.

Until the math makes sense again—in other words until market conditions allow developers to recoup the costs of building their housing projects—developments like the one Babsin has planned will remain shelved, said Chappell.

"As you look around the city, there are almost no construction cranes. There are an awful lot of projects like this one that are entitled [to move ahead] and that developers want to get going on, [but] the economy is just not right for it," said Chappell. "It costs more to develop than they can sell the units for. It is as simple as that." ■

Pitch in at Garden Day at James Lick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

March 16 Community Garden Day.) And if you aren't able to join the team, consider making a donation to the PTSA at

<https://www.sfusd.edu/school/james-lick-middle-school/jlms-families/parent-teacher-student-association-ptsa>.

In partnership with the national nonprofit America SCORES, Cockburn helped spearhead the wildly popular turf playing surface last year. (See "Soccer Field a Big Win at James Lick Middle School," *October 2023 Noe Valley Voice*.)

As she describes it, "Beautification of the school is my mission." America SCORES is also helping to fund the resuscitation of the garden.



PTSA member Gina Cockburn is on a mission to beautify the gardens at James Lick Middle School.. Photo by Kit Cameron

In addition, Cockburn is partnering with Franky Sandoval, the Community School Coordinator at James Lick, who acts as a bridge between the school at 1220 Noe St. and the wider community.

In 2009, tons of asphalt were removed and the four raised beds were constructed, along with a shed and picnic tables. But in recent years, the garden has remained empty, stymied by the lack of assigned school district personnel.

"We would love to have a garden teacher," says Sandoval. "But the school has priorities before a garden teacher."

He and Cockburn have determined that, nevertheless, the school deserves a beautiful space for the students. He is seeking funding for new heavy-duty trash cans. The current ones tip over, spreading garbage around the garden and yard.

"We don't want to normalize that it is okay to have a trash-filled yard," says Cockburn. The goal, she adds, is getting kids involved, having a sense of pride in the school.

"A lot of kids who go to James Lick don't live in the neighborhood," she says. "We want the garden to help bridge the community of neighbors and the school. We want to show how fantastic our kids are."

Garden Day volunteers will meet at the upper yard entrance on 25th Street, between Noe and Castro streets.

James Lick is part of the Shared Schoolyard Program, and the gates are open every Saturday and Sunday for pickup ball games, skating, and even as a safe place to learn to ride a bicycle.

"A lot of neighbors use the schoolyard on the weekend," notes Cockburn. "We invite them to help maintain it. Let's work together to keep it nice." ■

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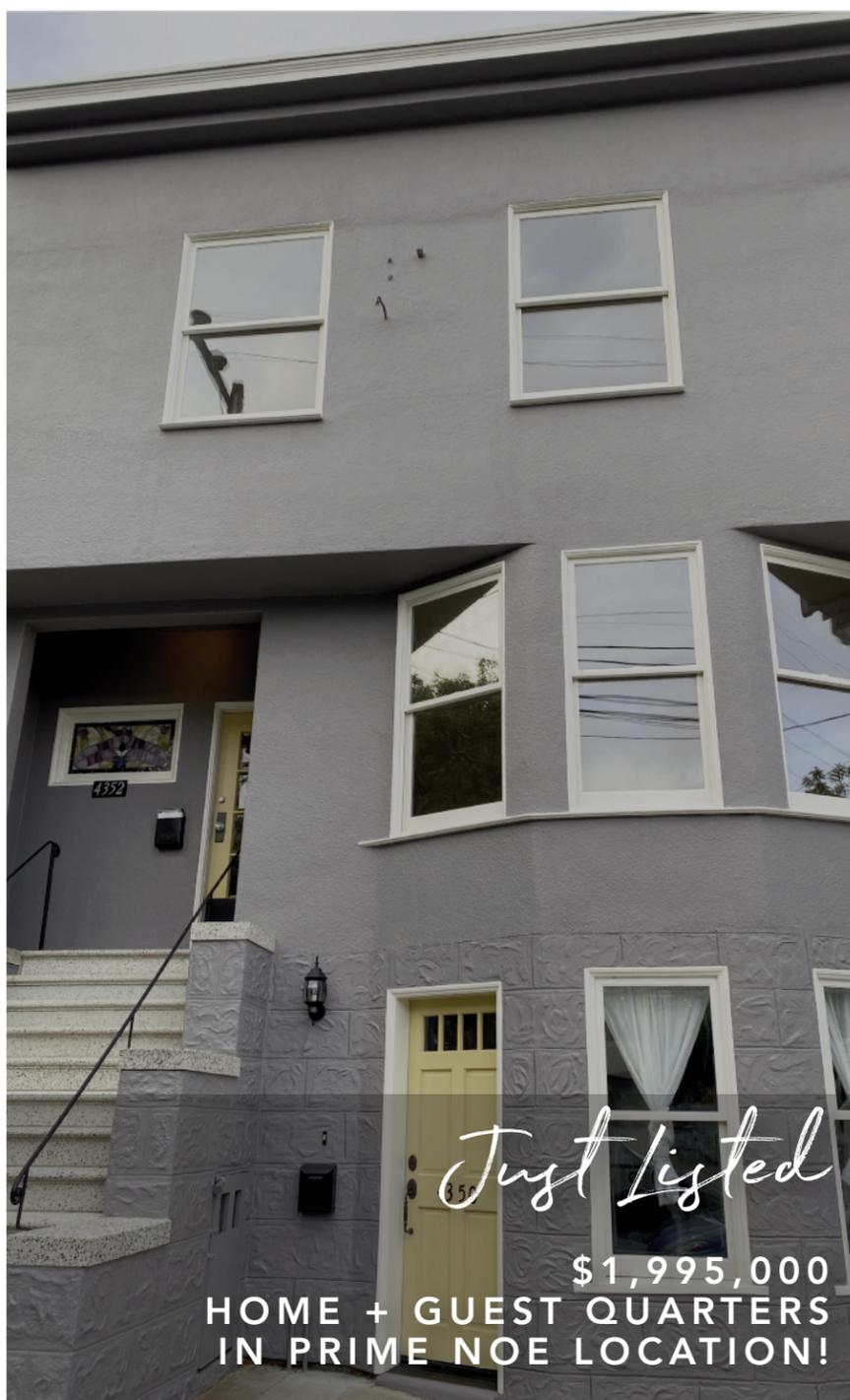
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A Super Feeling Pregame in Noe Valley

By Jeff Kaliss and Sally Smith

The morning of the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 11, fans of the NFC champion San Francisco 49ers were in full exuberance in Noe Valley. The last-minute loss of the home team to the evil Kansas City was eons away, trapped in a Barbie-like tomorrowland.

“We opened at 11, and people were lined up along the sidewalk all the way to the Bank of America,” said Vince Hogan, co-owner of the Valley Tavern. By 2:30, an hour before kickoff, he and partner Colleen Fatouh were standing at the door at 4054 24th St., carding new arrivals, as son and co-owner Declan Hogan and a loyal band of bartenders made haste to bestow brews to the assembled multitude.

In one of the crowded booths, Eddie Oropeza (at left in the photo) opined, “It’s gonna be a very close game,” and he’d be right.

From her barstool, Nicole Zamignani assured, “The 49ers have been coming back every time that we thought they wouldn’t, so all you have to have is faith.”

Faith abided into halftime at The Bar on Dolores, at the corner of 29th Street. Fans who’d been booing every closeup

of Taylor Swift on the numerous monitors cheered when Usher bared his chest. As for the game, Paul Brown pointed out that the Kansas City Chiefs

had been held to just three points, because “there’s been defense” from the Niners. All in all, a good sign.

His buddy Jake Wrench observed that “[Chiefs Coach] Andy Reid looked a little lost on the sidelines, like, *Oh s-t, I didn’t expect this!*” A veteran fan, Wrench found himself comparing Brock Purdy to his quarterback predecessor from 40 years ago, Joe Montana: “He’s calm, and he sees the field.” The team looked poised for victory.

Not knowing their ultimate fate (falling 22–25 in overtime), co-owner/bartender Damon Bell affirmed that, “We get a lot of bad press in this city for so many things. So it’s really nice to see the Niners at the Super Bowl, with people coming together, happy and laughing.” ■



Ever Faithful: Eddie Oropeza, Dennis Torres, Carlos Lewis, and their Valley Tavern boothmates (top photo) raise their fists to show their pride in the red and gold. Above: Purdy and pals—Ege Acaroglu with Joelle Dowling and Saarthak—get fresh air before the game starts. Below: Natalie Rejas, wearing George Kittle’s 85, chats with friend Nicole Zamignani. Photos by Sally Smith



Almost a Perfect Day: Valley Tavern co-owner Declan Hogan takes drink orders from a happy crowd of fans an hour before kickoff on Sunday, Feb. 11. Photo by Sally Smith

Paul Brown (left) and Jake Wrench watch the halftime show while bartender Damon Bell, under the screen near the window, serves patrons at his Bar on Dolores. Photo by Jeff Kaliss



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SHORT TAKES

It's Trash Day—and You're Invited!

Now that it looks like we might get a break from the rain, it's time to start planning Sunday outings. And what could be more fun than a Noe Valley Neighborhood Cleanup!

Join a crowd of volunteers on the third Sunday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon, and help clean the parks and sidewalks while getting great exercise. This month the date is March 17.

Volunteers meet at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St., to collect their stylish orange vests and grabber tools, then spread out to different locations to pick up trash. All ages can participate; students have been showing up to earn extra school credit.

Organizer Olga Zubashko is excited by the number of local folks who have signed up. "Our first cleanup was on Thanksgiving weekend, where we had 20 participants. We picked up again in 2024 and have had two cleanups so far, with seven participants in January and nine in February."

The Noe Valley cleanups are sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club, the grassroots organization Refuse Refuse, good old San Francisco Public Works, and the non-profit Together SF.

"It's a great way to spend a Sunday morning, particularly when we get beautiful weather like today," said Zubashko on a sunny Feb. 18. She said the group hoped to also find a way to provide coffee and snacks after the cleanups.

You can sign up for this month or future months at <https://www.mobilize.us/togethersf/event/591899/>. Get information on cleanups all over the city on the website TogetherSF.org.

—Kit Cameron

Local Artist Felled by Tree in Storm

By Corrie M. Anders

Nina Saltman, a longtime Noe Valley resident and prominent ceramic artist, is recovering after a horrific accident during the stormy afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 4. A palm tree fell on her as she was walking on Castro Street near 18th Street.

Saltman suffered a fractured spine, pelvis, and hip, and a broken foot, said friend Tandy Iles, who was with Saltman when the tree, loosened by two days of fierce wind and rain, toppled without warning. (Iles was unhurt.)

Iles said in mid-February that Saltman was healing and rehabilitating in a skilled nursing facility and would return to her home sometime in March.

"She's still in a lot of pain," Iles said, "but she's doing well considering. We are so grateful she survived, because as bad as this is, it could have been so much worse."

Iles said she and Saltman had just left the Sisters Coffee Shop on Castro Street when the accident occurred.

"The tree just came down," she said. "It happened so fast we couldn't do anything. We couldn't move out of the way. It was the most horrible, the most dramatic thing I've ever experienced."

Saltman, who moved to Noe Valley nearly four decades ago, is beloved in the neighborhood for her Nina's Little



Volunteers of all stripes are welcome at the Noe Valley Neighborhood Cleanups, held on third Sundays. The group meets at 10 a.m. at the Town Square. Photo courtesy Olga Zubashko

Choro das 3 Performs in Noe

"The Noe Valley Ministry used to have a certain funkiness to it that I really liked," remembers Larry Kassin about the venue where he launched the Noe Valley Music Series in the early 1980s and sustained Saturday concerts throughout the next three decades.

In 2011, Kassin relocated his series to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church at 2097 Turk St., under the aegis of his non-profit San Francisco Live Arts. But he occasionally returns to produce shows at the Ministry.

On Saturday, March 16, he will present the Brazilian music of a trio of sisters, Choro das 3, in the upstairs concert hall at the church, at 1021 Sanchez St.

Acoustic acts work best at the Ministry, said Kassin in a phone conversation from his home in San Anselmo. "There's a liveness in the

sound of the Ministry, with the wooden beams and the floors," he noted. "Many of the acts we had in the old days, like Bobby McFerrin and Jesse Winchester, were pretty quiet."

Choro is arguably the earliest form of popular Brazilian music, dating back to a fusion of syncopated African rhythms with European dance forms in the late 19th century. The word means to cry or lament, though much of what you'll hear at the Ministry will be lively and instrumental.

The group Choro das 3 was formed in 2002 in São Paulo, when its young musicians Corina, Lia, and Elisa Meyer Ferreira, were 14, 12, and 9 years old and accompanied by their father, percussionist Eduardo Ferreira. Corina plays the flute and piccolo, Lia the seven-string guitar, and Elisa the mandolin, clarinet, banjo, accordion, and piano. After their father's tragic death from Covid in 2021, the sisters continued to record and tour, in Brazil, Europe, and the U.S. In all, they have produced 11 albums.

At SF Live Arts' last concert at the Ministry, a year ago, Kassin said, "It was like old home week, meeting up with former neighbors from Alvarado Street and other people from the neighborhood." He would like to hold concerts at the Noe Valley site more often, maybe every three or four months. But parking can be an issue. "Choro das 3 is traveling the U.S. in a motor home," he points out. "Mom [Cristina Meyer Ferreira] does the business stuff, and they have two dogs. They asked me if they could park the motor home in Noe Valley, and I had to say, 'Nah, that's not a good idea.'"

Tickets for the March 16 show, which starts at 8 p.m., are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. You can buy them online through Brown Paper Tickets or by writing to SF Live Arts. For information go to <https://www.sflivearts.org> or email sanfranciscolivearts@gmail.com.

—Jeff Kaliss

Angels Help Kids Rise Up

Urban Angels, which has been helping unhoused San Franciscans since 2015 with meals, clothing, bedding and, most of all, the friendly faces of thousands of volunteers, is taking on a new focus, the well-being of school-age children.

The nonprofit has declared 2024 the year it targets unhoused children through a new program, Rise Up SF: Bridging the Gap for At-Risk SF Youth.

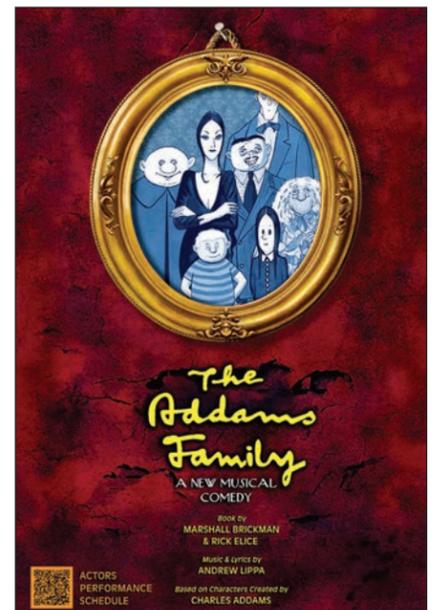
One-on-one tutoring by reading volunteers started in February. Backpacks filled with school supplies are another part of the UA mission, along with supporting families with essential supplies. In addition, the program will provide parenting classes and will get kids out into nature with summer camps.

Their website (urbanangels.org) cites sobering statistics: one in 24 students in San Francisco is without a home. And students without a high school degree are 450 percent more likely to experience homelessness in their lifetime. Nelson Barry, founder and chief executive of Urban Angels, says, "With the community's help we can easily provide essential services to children who are the most in need in our city to help them to succeed in school."

You can participate in the campaign as a volunteer or a donor of supplies or cash. The initial goal for March is \$15,000. Or you can visit their office in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center at 5228 Diamond Heights Blvd., to drop off clean clothes in their donation bin. The office is located upstairs from Walgreens and around the back of the building.

Contact Urban Angels by email (uasf@urbanangels.org) or phone (415-952-0711), or check out their website to find the many ways you can contribute or volunteer.

—Kit Cameron



Addams Family Revived at Ruth Asawa

The wacky lifestyle of *The Addams Family* may be a far cry from that of most SOTA kids, but the students will try it on for size in a series of eight performances over the second two weekends of March at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts.

Originating as *New Yorker* magazine cartoons by the late Charles Addams, the 2010 musical comedy, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, has inspired many reimaginings, including a Netflix series (*Wednesday*).

The plot revolves around Wednesday Addams, "the ultimate princess of darkness," who invites a "normal" young man and his parents to her house to meet her parents, Gomez and Morticia. Want to find out what happens when the guests get introduced to Uncle Fester, Lurch, and Thing?

See the show at the Dan Kryston Memorial Theater, 555 Portola Drive, by clicking on the box office at www.sfusd.edu. Tickets are \$26 adults, and \$20 students. Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, March 8–9 and 15–16; and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sundays March 9–10 and 16–17. Be sure to arrive early. There's no late seating.

—Jeff Kaliss



Nina Saltman and friend Deborah Bowes (seated) exhibit handmade ceramics near Saltman's home studio on 26th Street.

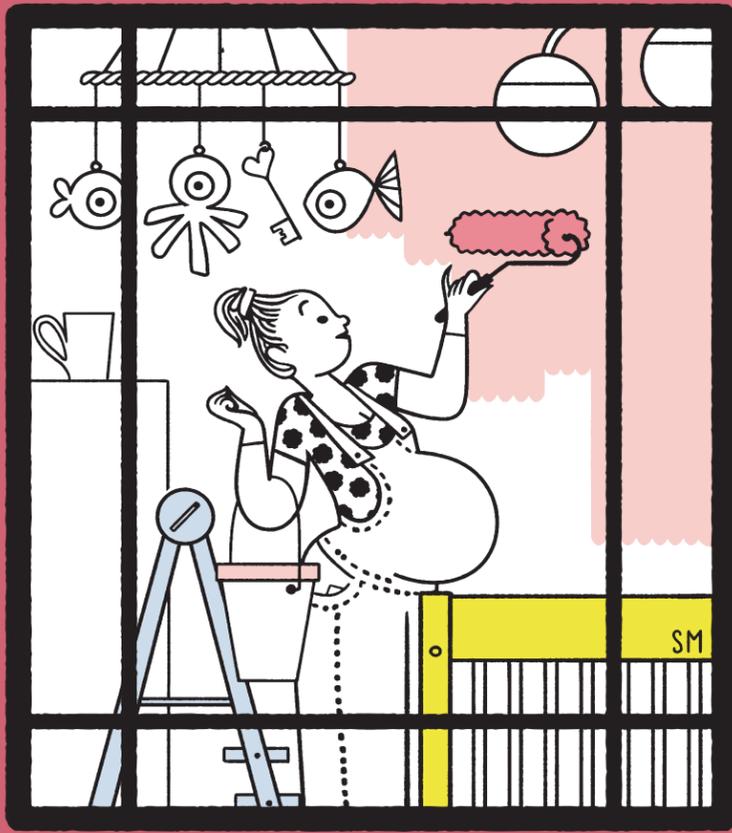
Photo by Susan Rutberg

Pott Shoppe, a peak-roofed box on the brick wall fronting her house that is modeled after the Little Free Libraries in the neighborhood.

The 73-year-old artist puts seconds or duplicates of her handmade pots, cups, and bowls in the box, free for anyone to take. Often passersby leave notes of gratitude.

Nina's Little Pot Shoppe is located on 26th between Castro and Diamond streets. Her website is Ninaclaycon.com.

"Needless to say," said Iles, "no free ceramics for a while." ■



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The Cost of Living in Noe

January a Hard Sell

By Corrie M. Anders

Home shoppers looking for an address in the village of Noe Valley purchased just four single-family detached homes and five condominiums during the first month of 2024, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

The low number of sales was not unusual for a January. That's because most buyers suspend their search for a new home during the fall holiday season.

"It's a very slow time of the year," said Corcoran Icon CEO Randall Kostick. "There are not a lot of buyers



With a final price of \$5,750,000, this contemporary home on Fair Oaks Street was the most expensive house sold in Noe Valley in January. Among its modern features were floor-to-ceiling glass walls, "smart" heating and lighting systems, and million-dollar views of the bay.

out shopping."

The few who did purchase properties at the end of 2023 took their time, the data showed. Sellers had to wait an average two months from the date they put their home on the market, to get an offer. (They could have expected a bid in three weeks or less if they'd listed in March or July in a typical year. But when have we had one of those?)

In the case of the most expensive home sold in Noe Valley this January, an acceptable offer wasn't received until 59 days after the property was listed for sale, on Sept. 5, 2023. The buyer paid \$5,750,000, 4.1 percent less than what the seller had initially sought (\$5,995,000).

For their money the new owners gained a modern, high-tech jewel on the 200 block of Fair Oaks Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

Remodeled in 2020 to accommodate four bedrooms and 4.5 baths in 3,741 square feet of living space, the home boasts floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors on four levels; a chef's kitchen



A buyer in January paid \$1,775,000 for a condominium in this two-unit building on 29th Street. The residence featured a top-of-the-line kitchen and south-facing decks on three levels.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2024	Average February 2024	Average Dec-Jan 2024	Average February 2023
Studio	6	\$2,150 – \$2,700	\$2,396 / mo.	\$2,178 / mo.	\$2,185 / mo.
1-bdrm	31	\$1,725 – \$4,500	\$2,873 / mo.	\$2,562 / mo.	\$3,022 / mo.
2-bdrm	35	\$2,800 – \$7,500	\$3,795 / mo.	\$4,190 / mo.	\$4,067 / mo.
3-bdrm	12	\$3,750 – \$8,495	\$5,255 / mo.	\$5,948 / mo.	\$6,343 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$5,895 – \$18,000	\$9,021 / mo.	\$6,623 / mo.	\$9,410 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 91 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 12 to Feb. 10, 2024. In February 2023, there were 146 listings. NVV3/2024

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
January 2024	4	\$1,325,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,012,500	65	102%
December 2023	7	\$780,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,197,000	55	99%
January 2023	5	\$1,080,000	\$3,902,500	\$2,247,500	69	104%
Condominiums/TICs						
January 2024	5	\$1,044,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,396,400	61	96%
December 2023	1	\$1,830,000	\$1,830,000	\$1,830,000	38	92%
January 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2024	1	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	144	81%
December 2023	1	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	47	92%
January 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
5+-unit buildings						
January 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2023	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 Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV3/2024

with Miele appliances, including a five-burner gas stove and a combination steam-electric oven; "smart" heat, light, and window-shade control; a media room with a mini-bar; a rooftop "pent room" with fridge; a landscaped yard with a hot tub; and two-car parking with an EV-charging station.

The neighborhood's most expensive condominium in January was a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath residence in the 500 block of 29th Street, between Noe and Castro streets. After being on the market for 3.5 months, the property sold for

\$1,775,000. That was a 10 percent markdown on its asking price (\$1,975,000).

Part of a two-unit building constructed in 2001, the 1,831-square-foot living space is spread across three levels. Features include a chef's kitchen with Caesarstone countertops and stainless steel appliances, a dining nook, and an open living area with a gas fireplace. The unit also has one-car parking, south-facing decks, and a rear yard with trees. ■

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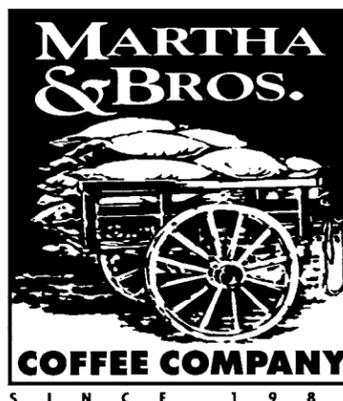
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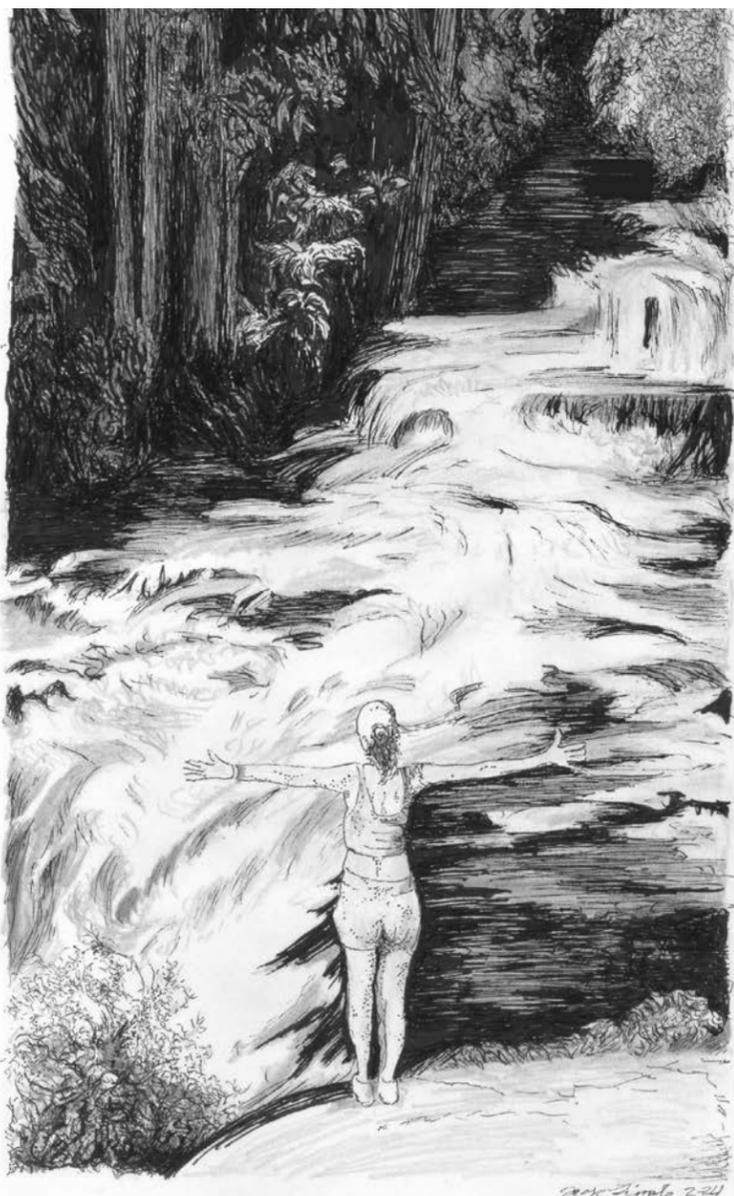
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Noe Views



The sunset from Diamond Heights.

Photo by Sally Smith



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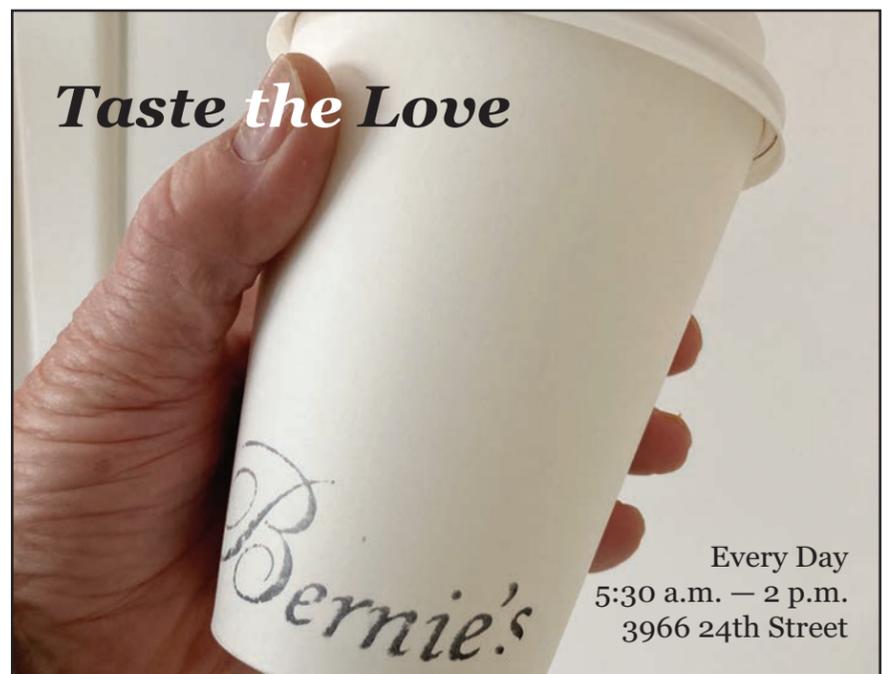
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Slowly Surely Sanchez

By Linda Gebroe

Normally, I don't get my decades mixed up. However, I do find that Noe Valley bears a striking resemblance to the 1950s these days. Of course, our San Francisco neighborhood has long been a paragon of friendliness.

Certainly, the arrival of Covid in 2020 could have strained that spirit. Remember when we didn't understand how the disease was transmitted? All we knew was that it could be fatal, and that was plenty enough for us to stay physically distant from each other.

It didn't stop us from growing closer in other ways, though. As we came to understand the disease was less contagious outdoors than in, we stepped outside in droves. People would sit on their front stoops, striking up conversations with anyone who happened to walk by. Neighbors would greet one another, asking how their kids or parents were doing. They'd ask if we needed anything from the supermarket or the hardware store. I'm going in an hour, they'd say.

And just when we thought we couldn't be any nicer, a great big boost arrived, courtesy of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. Sanchez Street in Noe Valley was picked as a Slow Street, defined as a "safe, comfortable, low-vehicle-traffic roadway(s), prioritizing active transportation and community building."

Did Slow Sanchez ever build community! Hear, hear. Here, here.

For me and so many others, the street was practically a lifesaver, especially during the pandemic's early days. In the interest of limiting in-person contact, places we had previously frequented—like offices and gyms—were shut down. A bit of a gym rat myself, I would have become just a plain old rat had I not taken up walking as exercise. Thankfully, traversing San Francisco standbys like Golden Gate Park and the Great Highway got my heart pumping and my appreciation stirring. And discovering urban gems

OTHER VOICES

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Co-founder Maricar Lagura presides over Noe Cafe, a busy hub of activity on Sanchez Street.

Photo by Marge Troester

like Heron's Head in the city's Bayview district was an added treat.

But like so many Noe Valley dwellers, I'm nothing if not loyal to my zip code. And so, I have become a proud Slow Sanchez walker. Other residents as well as merchants have done much to elevate our neighborhood, especially during the pandemic, to heavenly status.

Take the homeowners on Slow Sanchez near 28th Street. They've enhanced community participation by inviting walkers to press one of two buttons on their garage door ("150K+ presses!" a sign on the door reads).

Push the top button and you'll hear some music; "All You Need Is Love" was the last song I heard. The bottom button yields sound effects like the boiiiiinnng of a spring. Either way, as the Fab Four might have sung, the garage door at #1430 is guaranteed to raise a smile.

Further down the street lives another gifted musician, Gil Guillermo. Like that of so many others, Gil's livelihood was shuttered, along with the doors of the clubs where he had performed pre-pandemic. He and his band could easily have called it quits. Instead, they launched "Tiny Porch Concerts."

In the spring and summer of 2020, Gil, his band, and assorted guest stars played some fine music, mostly Latin, for neighbors like me, who craved both music and the company of fellow human beings. Every Sunday afternoon, the corner of Sanchez and Duncan would be filled with dozens of us fans, who'd sit back in our camp chairs for an hour or more while being treated to topnotch entertainment. As we swayed to the music, life seemed almost normal. Maybe even better than normal.

Then there was the Noe Cafe, which had sprung up at 26th and Sanchez streets that same year. According to their website, "Our journey began during the World Shutdown, a time when we realized the importance of community and the simple joys in life."

The cafe lies smack in the middle of Slow Sanchez, which stretches from 23rd to 30th Street. It could be

deemed our community's center as well. Noe Cafe's owners have expanded their parklet area to include colorful Adirondack chairs in grown-up and children's sizes to accommodate all who gather there. Kids color on the pavement with cafe-supplied chalk, while their adult companions sip and yack away.

The cafe's current popularity is just one reminder that Slow Sanchez is still humming along. Neighborhood events like the Halloween Stroll, Family Bike Ride, Annual Block Party, and Pride March, have become fixtures.

Wonderful as these events are, it's the everyday life along Slow Sanchez that has captured my heart. The mile-long stretch continues to see so many people walking or jogging along it. Often, it's their canine companions who set the pace.

Other folks move on wheels, and Slow Sanchez is full of 'em, from two-wheeled bicycles to three-wheeled tri-cycles. Even an occasional unicycle will make an appearance. We've got four-wheeled strollers for the young'uns, walkers and rollators for the elders, and wheelchairs for the less able-bodied among us. Skateboards and scooters carry pretty much everyone else who wants to roll along.

Meanwhile, cars have become second-class carriers here in Noe-land, where most drivers dutifully respect their place and, better yet, the rules. Pedestrians come first. Period.

To no one's surprise, it turns out slow is good. Very good. More than a third better, by the MTA's figures, which report that since Slow Streets were first introduced in San Francisco, traffic collisions on those thoroughfares have dropped by 36 percent.

Impressive as that is, the statistics only begin to tell the story. Something less tangible but far more inspiring has flourished here. Stroll Sanchez Street for yourself and you'll see what I mean. People—even those you don't know—will smile or wave, and you'll be all too happy to smile or wave back. Some will say hello and then introduce you to their dog. Babies will burble while high-octane children may nearly collide with you or each other. (The little kids' bicycle helmets are a delightful bonus, by the way—true works of art, color, and imagination.) If you've walked the street more than a couple of times, you're bound to see a familiar face or two.

The magic lies in the fact that even if you don't actually know your neighbors, you'll feel as if you do. Tell me that's not like a 1950s television show. Or a 2020s Slow Sanchez Street. ■



After pausing at Clipper, community pathfinder Linda Gebroe heads south on Slow Sanchez.

Photo by Pat Hastings

Linda Gebroe is a San Francisco writer and retired communications professional. Her work has appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Narrative Magazine, and the West Marin Review; and her commentaries have aired on KQED Public Radio. She is a diehard baseball fan and humble servant to her kitty, Roz Catz.

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March 1 & April 5: The self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various neighborhood businesses, on the first Friday of the month. 5-8 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

March 1 & April 5: First Friday COMEDY NIGHT at the Dubliner is hosted by Joe Gleckler. 8-9:30 pm. Dubliner, 3838 24th. 826-2279; gleckler:joe@gmail.com

March 2, 9 & 18: Omnivore Books welcomes CHEF authors Massimo Bottura and Lara Gilmore (*Slow Food, Fast Cars*) March 2, 3 pm; Brigit Binns (*Rottenkid: A Succulent Story of Survival*) March 9, 3 pm; and Ben Wurgaft and Merry White (*Ways of Eating: Exploring Food through History and Culture*) March 18, 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: MUSIC at the Farmers Market features, on March 2: Mikael Konutgan at 9 am, and B Street Express at 11 am; March 9: Big Lou at 9 am, and Probabilities du Nord at 11 am; March 16: Jeff Troiano at 9 am, and Liberty Street at 11 am; March 23: My Daughter's Dog at 9 am, and Big Spoon String Band at 11 am; March 30: Luke Schwartz at 9 am, Terence Jack at 10:15 am, and Projeto Novo at 11:15 am. NV Town Square, 3861 24th. noe-valleytownsquare.com

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Wander local streets with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

March 3: ACTION SF's monthly meeting features Noe activist on gun regulation Ruth Borenstein. 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. action-sf.com

March 3, 10, 17 & 24: Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 5: Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm to vote in the Primary ELECTION. For info, 554-4375; sfelections.org

March 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Glen Park Rec Center shows VINTAGE FILMS: *Great Guy* (1936) on March 5; *The Fast and the Furious* (1955) on March 12; *Fear and Desire* (1952) on March 19; and *His Girl Friday* (1940) on March 26. 6 pm. 70 Elk. 239-4007; sfrec-park.org.

MARCH CALENDAR

March 6: Local writers celebrate International WOMEN'S DAY March 8 with readings at Bird & Beckett. 7-9 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

March 6-May 18: CHUNG 24 Gallery shows "Remember Me;" photographs by Preston Gannaway. Reception March 9, 2-5 pm; Wed.-Sat. 1:30-6 pm, or by appointment. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Noe Valley Library hosts Family STORYTIMES on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and at 11 am. Space is limited to 20 children. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: The BAR on Dolores hosts open-mike COMEDY on Thursdays, presented by Mutiny Radio. 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

March 8-17: Students from Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts perform *The Addams Family*. Fri. & Sat. 7 pm, Sat. & Sun. 2 pm. Dan Kryston Memorial Theater, 555 Portola. 695-5700; fsud.edu

March 9: NOE MUSIC KIDS features a performance by Nomad Session, playing every instrument from the woodwind and brass family. 10:30-11:15 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemus-sic.org

March 10: African American singer/song-writer Stephanie Woodford performs at ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the Town Square. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 11: Get drop-in TECH HELP from the Noe Valley Library staff. 2-3 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 12: The Noe Valley Library hosts FAMILY LEGO and Board Games Night. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 13: A STAMP-MAKING workshop at the Noe Valley Library for teens and adults runs from 4 to 5 p.m., 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 14: The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on second

Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noe-valleyministry.org

March 14: Hindustani classical MUSICIANS Mallar Bhattacharya and Ferhan Qureshi perform on sarode and tabla. 7-9 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

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

March 16: SF Live Arts presents a CON-CERT at the Noe Valley Ministry featuring the sister trio Choro Das 3 from Brazil. 8 pm. 1021 Sanchez 454-5238; sflivearts.org

March 16 & 17: City Guides leads a WALKING TOUR of the neighborhood, "Village Within a City." 2-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 17: SF Public Works' Neighborhood CLEANUP DAY volunteers pick up supplies at the Town Square at 10 am. 3861 24th; https://www.mobilize.us/togethersf/event/591899/

March 17: Enjoy Irish dancers, food, and drink at the **ST. PATRICK'S DAY** Celtic Festival in the public lot across from Valley Tavern, 4061 24th. 11 am to 10 pm. 285-0674; www.valleytavern.us

March 17: ACOUSTIC Sunday features Canadian singer/songwriter TJ Hermiston. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 17: NOE MUSIC hosts a performance of Mozart and Mendelssohn by Paul Wiancko, Meena Bhasin, Owen Dalby, Ayana Kozasa, and Livia Sohn. 4-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemus-sic.org

March 19: Mission Library's BOOK CLUB en Español discusses *La Mala Hora*, by Gabriel Garcia Márquez. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 20: Noe Valley Library's BOOK CLUB talks about *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro. 6:30-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey.

355-5707; sfpl.org

March 20: Upper Noe Neighbors holds a COMMUNITY meeting from 7 to 8:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day; upper-noeneighbors.com

March 22: Design a HERSTORY bookmark at a workshop at the Noe Valley Library, 3:30 to 4:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 23: Ages 6 and older can explore chemical reactions, making Alka-Seltzer ROCKETS, from 3 to 4 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 23: SF Civic Music offers a free CONCERT, "An Afternoon of Chamber Music." 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; sfcivicmusic.org

March 24: Learn the history of the WOMEN'S BUILDING and its mural. 2 to 3 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 24: MUSIC ON THE HILL features a program of duets and trios by Ava & Friends. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org

March 26: PJ STORYTIME for children and their families runs from 6:30 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 26-May 1: SFFD offers a NERT FULL TRAINING class on Wednesdays, from 9 am to 1 pm. 2310 Folsom. 558-3200; sf-fire.org

March 27: An interior designer discusses "REJUVENATING Your Home," from 5 to 6 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 29: Nicole Maria shows the art of BELLYDANCING, from 3 to 4 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 30: Decorate a mini FLOWERPOT and take home seeds to plant (ages 6 and older). 3-4 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Marching Right Along: The next *Voice* will be the **April 2024** issue, distributed the first week of April. The deadline for calendar items is **March 15**. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

The picture book *Like So*, by Ruth Forman and illustrator Raissa Figueroa, honors the love of family. Ages 1-4.

Frog Can Hop, by Laura Gehl with illustrations by Fred Blunt, follows the adventures of an energetic frog and a lazy pig. Ages 3-5.

My Block Looks Like, by Janelle Harper, celebrates everyday life in a big city. Illustrations by Frank Morrison. Ages 4-8.

Ra Pu Zel and the Stinky Tofu, by Ying Chang Compestine, illustrated by Crystal Kung, is a retelling of the Rapunzel story. Ages 5-8.

"Ice" gets upset when his older brother Seth fails to show up one day, in *Between Two Brothers* by Crystal Allen (ebook). Ages 8-12.

In *Just Shy of Ordinary* by A. J. Sass, 13-year-old Shai makes a plan to change their "new normal" after the pandemic (ebook). Ages 8-12.

An only child worries when her mother has a brain aneurysm, in *Ruptured* by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Photos of 90 children show what emotions look like, in *Little Faces Big Feelings* by Amy Morrison. Ages 2-6.

In *How to Draw Cool Things*, Erin Hunting starts with simple shapes to encourage confidence in young artists. Ages 4-12.

Jerry Pallotta compares two creatures' chances of survival, in *Who Would Win? Blue Whale vs. Mosquito*, illustrated by Rob Bolster. Ages 6-8.

The Gender Book: Girls, Boys, Non-Binary, and Beyond by Cassandra Jules Corrigan, illustrated by Jem Milton, discusses the choices and issues of gender identity. Ages 5 to 12.

TEEN FICTION AND NONFICTION

In *The Immortal Games* by Annaliese Avery, the gods of Olympus randomly select humans to live or die. Ages 12+.

Beasts of War concludes the fantasy trilogy by Ayana Gray, in which the heroine runs from the vengeful god of death with help from her powerful allies. Ages 12+.

In *Like Thunder* by Nnedi Okorafor, the second book in the "desert magician's duology," rainmaker Dikéogu and shadow speaker Eji reunite in Niger in the year 2077. Ages 12+.

My Fair Brady by Brian D. Kennedy is a "queer Pygmalion" starring three high school theater kids (ebook). Ages 13+

In Kate Weston's novel *Diary of a Confused Feminist*, 15-year-old Kat Evans tries to teach herself not to stalk her hot crush on Instagram. Ages 14+.

Poemhood: Our Black Revival, edited by Amber McBride, Erica Martin, and Taylor Byas, is a collection of the works of 39 acclaimed poets (ebook). Ages 13+.

ADULT FICTION

In Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow's psychological drama *All the Little Bird-Hearts*, an autistic English woman tries to maintain control of her life and her daughter (ebook).

A grieving daughter takes revenge on the man who caused her mother's death, in *The Fetishist* by Katherine Min.

Samantha Harvey's contemplative *Orbital* follows one day in the lives of six astronauts on a final mission around Earth (ebook).

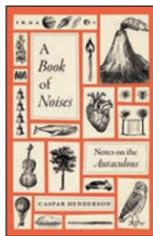
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Reading the Leaves by Michael Blake

B	A	K	E	S		A	N	G	S	T		D	N	A
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

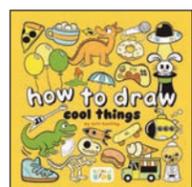
What a Wonderful World



Imagine a large building full of books—books that tell stories, books that explain the world, books of pictures, books that make one think or rethink—and, for a couple of weeks, you can take an armful of them home, for free. Well, that's the library.

The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, at 451 Jersey St., regularly gets new books. And thanks to Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Children's Librarian Madeleine Felder, the *Voice* can share some of their titles. (See the lists below, annotated by Voice bookworm Karol Barske.)

To borrow the books—or DVDs, ebooks, or other materials at the branch—first check their availability at the library's website, SFPL.org. Then put your favorites on hold. Or you can stroll over to the Noe Valley branch and browse for books the old-fashioned way. If you need to consult with Lewis or Felder, or with our library's manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory, call 415-355-5707.



The Noe Valley Library is open Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.



In the 2023 Booker Prize winner *Prophet Song*, by Paul Lynch, Ireland is taken over by a tyrannical government ruled by secret police.

Same Bed Different Dreams by Ed Park imagines an alternative secret history of Korea.

A female narrator questions what it means to be alive at this moment in history in *The Vulnerables* by Sigrid Nunez (ebook).

ADULT NONFICTION

In *The Allure of the Multiverse: Extra Dimensions, Other Worlds, and Parallel Universes*, physicist Paul Halpern sheds light on scientists' irresistible attraction to quantum mechanics.

Caspar Henderson explores the range of

sounds humans hear, in *A Book of Noises: Notes on the Auraculous*.

Come Hungry: Salads, Meals, and Sweets for People Who Live to Eat features vegetable-focused recipes by TikTok star Melissa Ben-Ishay.

In *Dirtbag: Essays*, Amber A'Lee Frost recalls her many triumphs and defeats in the fight for labor and socialism (ebook).

Yaroslav Trofimov gives an eyewitness account in *Our Enemies Will Vanish: The Russian Invasion and Ukraine's War of Independence*.

The Survivors of the Clotilda: The Lost Stories of the Last Captives of the American Slave Trade by Hannah Durkin describes the abduction of prisoners from Dahomey, circa 1860.



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LIBRARY EVENTS

A six-week workshop in **Chronic Pain Management** continues Fridays, March 1, 8, and 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited; registration is required.

Storytimes are on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., March 7, 14, 21 and 28. Space is limited to 20 children.

Get one-on-one **tech help** from the library staff. Learn how to download eBooks. Monday, March 11, 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own device, or practice using a library computer.

Family **Board Game and Lego Night** welcomes all ages on Tuesday, March 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

All materials are provided at a **stamp-making** workshop for teens and adults, on Wednesday, March 13, 4 to 5 p.m.

Christopher Pollock, author of *San Francisco's Parks*, discusses the history of the city's green spaces, on Saturday, March 16, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Meet at the library for a **City Guides Walking Tour**, "Village Within a City," exploring historic sites in Noe Valley, on Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Space is limited; registration required.

The Tertulia Literaria **Book Club en Español** reads *La Mala Hora* by Gabriel Garcia Márquez, on Tuesday, March 19, from 6 to 7 p.m. Copies are held for checkout at Mission Library.

The **Noe Valley Book Club** reads *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, on Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

Design a **HerStory Bookmark** based on a favorite woman, with all materials provided, on Friday, March 22, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ages 6 and older can explore chemical reactions to make **Alka-Seltzer Rockets**, on Saturday, March 23, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Learn the history of the **Women's Building**, on 18th near Valencia, on Sunday, March 24, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Kids and their families are invited to **Pajama Storytime**, on Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Space is limited to 20 kids; reservations required: 355-5707.

Home store Rejuvenation sends an interior designer to give pointers for **"Rejuvenating Your Home."** Wednesday, March 27, 5 to 6 p.m.

Nicole Maria demonstrates the traditions of **bellydancing**, on Friday, March 29, 3 to 4 p.m.

Ages 8 and older can decorate a mini **flowerpot** and take home dirt and seeds to plant; supplies limited. Saturday, March 30, 3 to 4 p.m.

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

DVDS/BLU-RAY

These are among the latest films available through the San Francisco Public Library:

Four Daughters (Les Filles d'Olfa), a documentary from Tunisia, written and directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, starring Olfa Hamrouni (2023).

The Holdovers, a comedy/drama directed by Alexander Payne, starring Paul Giamatti (2023).

Killers of the Flower Moon, a drama set in 1920s Oklahoma, directed by Martin Scorsese, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone, and Robert De Niro (2023).

More Than Ever (Plus Que Jamais), a drama directed by Emily Atef, starring Vicky Krieps and Gaspard Ulliel (2022).

The Persian Version, a comedy directed by Maryam Keshavarz, starring Layla Mohammadi and Niousha Noor (2023).



Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library						
451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	11-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

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 SAN FRANCISCO & BERKELEY



Aljiin Ford's Tobacco, Zig-zags & Gum
 Berkeley • Starts Mar 1



Something Is Wrong with Adam Strauss
 SF • Starts Mar 9



Brian Copeland's Not A Genuine Black Man
 SF • Starts April 6



Dirk Alphin's Axis
 SF • Starts April 7



Lynne Kaufman's Extreme Acts
 SF • Starts May 11



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All Can Play: Recently installed red and gray acoustic panels reduce noise in the busy auditorium. Now parents can talk while children jump, run, or ride. *Photo by Chris Faust*

A Place to Hear

Enjoy a hushed environment the next time you play, exercise, or hold a meeting in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center. The group Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center just completed an acoustic upgrade that aims to eliminate echoes and loud noise. Explains friend Chris Faust, "Using add-back funding we procured through Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, we designed and purchased beautiful and durable panels. Rec and Park carpenters completed the installation in early February. Support from rec center staff was amazing throughout this project."

Meanwhile, it's time to sign up for Spring Session classes, running March 19 through May 25. Registration citywide starts March 2, at 10 a.m. League volleyball, girls' open volleyball, and karate classes will return, as will Saturday open gym. You can also register for free activities like A Place to Play, pickleball, or zumba. View the schedule below or at www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

Faust says we all can help keep the park clean. If you see something that needs maintenance, contact San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1) by phone, web, or the phone app. Park personnel rely on our 3-1-1 reports to respond to service requests. For more information, call the office at 415-970-8061. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email info@fundogsf.org.

Upper Noe Spring Session (March 19 to May 25, 2024)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sun. and Mon. closed, outside activities only. Park grounds daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A Place to Play (Free Play)

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays
 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
 Hours are subject to change.

Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE
 12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
 2 to 5:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)
 6 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
 6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 18+)
 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
 12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+) FREE
 2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
 4 to 4:45 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 6-8)
 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)
 5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 9-12)
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)
 6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 10-12)

Thursday

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)
 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE
 12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
 2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
 6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 18+)
 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
 10 to 1:30 p.m. Open Gym (Adult)
 2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
 4 to 5 p.m. Volleyball League (ages 8-10)
 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 8-10)
 5 to 6 p.m. Volleyball League (ages 11-14)
 6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Begin. (ages 10-12)
 6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Teen Open Volleyball (ages 12-17)

Saturday

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



We now sell Open Farm dog kibble and Raw Mix, in addition to gently cooked.

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Pictured pet: June | Photo: Elizabeth Zavala

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<https://diamondcafelunches.wixsite.com/diamond-cafe>

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Noe Nowadaze

By Mazook

THE VERNAL EQUINOX will arrive in Noe Valley on Tuesday, March 19, 7:06 p.m., marking the first day of spring. Hooray! It has been a very wet and windy winter. My crystal ball says we can look forward to a delightful spring with moderate temperatures, lots of sun, and the fog drifting over Twin Peaks to refresh the air. Noe Valley has the best weather in the world, not too cold and not too hot. Many friendly neighbors are happily walking our streets and parks.

Noe Valleons are talking politics, too. Within us, the political leanings are quite diverse. Well, sort of. The 5th of March is election time. I look forward to doing April's column, because I get to gather up the Noe Valley results from the city's Department of Elections. It breaks down the votes by neighborhood.

Our Noe Valley Department of Elections expects voter turnout here will be one of the highest in town, with registered Democrats comprising over 90 percent of the Noe vote.

It should be interesting to see how many of us vote for "no one" rather than for Biden for President. Or they pick one of his seven rivals, or don't vote at all. Make sure YOU vote so we can see Noe Valley's political commitment.

I tell you, I am sick of having to mute all those political ads on TV and the flyers shoved into my mailbox, which require me to put them in my recycling bin. But I will save my gripes of wrath for later.

☎ ☎ ☎

IT'S A CRIME: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman hosted a Retail Theft Town Hall on Monday, Feb. 5, at the Noe Valley Ministry. The topic was "issues of retail theft in District 8 and across San Francisco, and how the supervisors and city departments have been coordinating on enforcement and preventative efforts to protect businesses and residents in our community."

Present with Supervisor Mandelman were District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, SFPD Mission Station Captain Tom Harvey, SFPD Burglary Unit Lieutenant Scott Ryan, and Ryan Allain, director of the California Retailers Association.

Allain said the crime was not unique to San Francisco, but rather "a problem statewide.... It hits the media more [in S.F.] but every city is doing this. The I-80 corridor is hit up and down."

Jenkins said Prop. 47, which passed in 2014, unfortunately had made it harder to prosecute property theft, because it increased the threshold to charge crimes as felonies from \$450 to \$950. So now we have a glut of misdemeanor cases, for which judges can offer diversion.

I got to sit in the press section in front. Behind me, I estimated almost 100 people showed up for the meeting. As expected, the speakers all assured us they were doing everything possible to curb the citywide disaster of organized theft. They asked for more money for prosecutors and police recruiting, and asked the public to be less tolerant of crime and to report it when it occurred.

There was a question-and-answer period at the end, and many neighbors submitted written questions, several of which were read to the panel in the last 10 minutes of the hour-long meeting. Too bad more time wasn't given to answering the questions.

Noe Valley businesses have experienced burglaries and vandalism for the past year. Store windows have been shattered,



A palm tree near Dolores and 28th streets lost its head during the Feb. 4 windstorm. We hope the parrots knew better than to be out in that weather. Photo by Tom Ruiz

and burglars have broken into several Downtown Noe Valley stores. Shoplifters have frequented Walgreens, both here and in Eureka Valley.

One business on 24th Street was broken into recently through the front window, and thieves went to the back room where they thought the safe was. After trying to knock the door down, they fled before the SFPD arrived. The store owner told me that the window replacement cost more than \$5,000, "which is a large cost for our business."

☎ ☎ ☎

CALL SHERLOCK HOLMES: The big mystery in Downtown Noe Valley these days is the sudden closing of Folio Books, 3957 24th St. (on Feb. 29), which was announced by its owners at the beginning of February. I have made inquiries and many people have asked me why our only bookstore is closing. Please read Kit Cameron's front-page story about its final days. The real mystery is why the Folio folks won't say why they were finished after 10 years in Noe Valley. The response I got from many of the Noe Valley know-alls was: "I am shocked."

One of them, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "It [2023] was the best year they ever had. So it wasn't about money. It leads to my suspicion that it was personality, or it was just about them wanting to do something else."

The mystery of what will happen to Haystack Pizza, once its building has been sold, has been on the minds of the restaurant's many patrons. When the news broke last month that the building had a buyer, readers wanted to know who and how, and whether the restaurant would keep operating. The deal is still pending a month later. A name has not emerged. Only the bull on the roof of the building knows Haystack's fate. Still, customers are ordering pizza at the local icon, which has thrived at 3881 24th St. since 1972.

☎ ☎ ☎

OFF THE MAP: The neighborhood suffered another blow last month when Mapamundi Kids, at 1306 Castro St. since 2014, closed its doors with little explanation. Posted on the front window of the children's store was a sign: "To all of our loyal customers, thank you so much for all of your incredible support over the years. It has been an honor curating a collection of beautiful clothing, perfect books, wonderful toys, delightful home goods, and more for all of you. From the United States to the UK to Japan, we see all of you. Thank you for being a part of the Mapamundi Kids story. All my love, Terra [Andrews]." She will be missed.

In updating the Firefly GoFundMe story in last month's column, I was very curious why Firefly appeared to be shouldering the entire cost (over \$50K) of rebuilding its parklet on the corner of 24th and Douglass. Philz Coffee is on that corner, and coffee drinkers inhabit the parklet all day. Firefly is one door down

on 24th Street, and is open for dinner at 5 p.m. Has coffee tycoon Phil Jaber contributed to the parklet project? My inquiries to Philz have gone unanswered.

Also, the vegan ice cream shop we reported was going to open in the long-vacant space across from the Noe Valley Town Square is now a reality. Banán, a Hawaiian soft-serve company that makes its dairy-free soft-serve ice cream using pureed bananas, has three outlets in Honolulu, HI. Banán is opening its first mainland location here in Noe Valley, at 3862 24th St. (next to Martha's Coffee).

According to Zak Barry, he and business partner Matthew Hong wanted to expand their business beyond Hawaii, starting with San Francisco. "We think we found an ideal spot in Noe Valley because of the large number of families in the neighborhood and a reputation for the community eating healthy foods." He says that Banán had established business relationships with several banana growers in Hawaii to supply what they feel will be an expanding business.

I would be remiss if I didn't wish you a happy St. Patrick's Day. The Valley Tavern is holding a Noe Valley Celtic Festival on March 17 this year, at the parking lot across from the bar, at 4061 24th St. From 11 a.m. on, it will have music, Irish dancers, food, drink, and arts and crafts.

By the way, on my morning walk at 10 a.m. on Super Bowl Sunday, the line to get into the Valley Tavern stretched all the way up 24th Street past Castro. I asked the fellow first in line why he was there so early. "I want to make sure I get the best booth to watch the game."

As you know, the tavern was rocking that afternoon for four and a half hours. And then it wasn't. The Niners lost the game in overtime when Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes tossed the ball to Mecole Hardman, who scampered into the end zone. So it goes.

☎ ☎ ☎

MYSTERY SOLVED: Finally we know what will fill the long-vacant space at 3810 24th St. (near Church), where Shoe Biz once was: a children's preschool called Crayon Box. Work to renovate the ground floor and mezzanine began several months ago. The full permit was finally granted last month for the school, which will focus on teaching in Spanish. Adriana Razo is the founder of Crayon Box, which for the past 10 years has been located at 3215 Cesar Chavez (near Folsom), in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bernal Heights. It was founded in 2003, and originally located on Ocean Avenue. Maria Murillo is program director, and their website is thecrayonboxpreschool.com.

"We currently have 30 students, and our new location in Noe Valley will have room for a total of 39, with our new school year starting on July 8," says Razo. "We are currently taking applications."

She says this location is ideal since "many of our families live in Noe Valley and we have found that there are many Noe Valley applicants who want to enroll since we have scheduled many informational tours at our new location."

☎ ☎ ☎

SURVIVAL OF THE FITNESS: Also new to Downtown Noe Valley is MX3 Fitness. The gym is moving into the commercial space once occupied by Old Republic Title Company (4045 24th, next to Wells Fargo Bank). On Feb. 25, they issued a press release that said, "The Bay Area's largest LGBTQ-owned and operated gym business announces it is expanding to San Francisco's Noe Valley neighborhood. MX3 Fitness—Noe Valley is anticipated to open in May and will feature certified personal training and monthly memberships at the company's fourth location." Other MX3 locations are in the Lower Haight, Castro, and Mission.

MX3 Fitness founder and senior trainer Glenn Shope says, "We are truly grateful to our trainers and our members

who stuck with us through the worst of the pandemic, and we have them to thank for the fact that we are now expanding ... We have had our eye on opening in Noe Valley for years. Luckily, the stars aligned, and we couldn't be more excited to become a part of this vibrant neighborhood."

Co-owner Dave Karraker adds that the Noe Valley location is a 2,500-square-foot, "spacious gym with a bright interior and all-new equipment. Unique to the city, the facility will feature five individual fitness zones. Each fitness zone is 150 square feet and includes all the equipment anyone would need to get a great workout, including squat rack, functional cable machines, free weights and more—meaning no more waiting for equipment. The gym will also feature multiple cardio options, including a Peloton bike, a water-tension rowing machine, an assault bike, and a full-body step trainer machine."

Okay then.

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MONDAY ODD MONDAY: Former Voice writer and neighborhood author Richard "Rick" May has decided to take a break from hosting the Odd Mondays reading series, which had been meeting at Folio Books and more recently at Bethany Church on Sanchez. (The series was founded in 2001 by Judith Levy-Sender and Ramon Sender. Rick May took it over in August 2018.) He paused the series in November. "I went on hiatus with it for two months to think it over," said May, "and concluded there was [more] interest in the neighborhood for a variety series," and less interest in local author readings, like May had enjoyed hosting.

He notes, "Folio's closing is further evidence of less interest in books in Noe Valley. When I moved here 34 years ago, there were four bookstores. Now, one can't survive. The world changes."

Also, May is busy working on a new short-story collection and the release of a new book in March. He'll be at Poesia Café, 4072 18th St., talking about the latest edition of *Gay All Year: 12 Stories*, on April 3, 7 p.m.

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NEWS FROM JOHN: It looks like the new bathroom in the Town Square will open by mid-April, according to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and Town Square chief Leslie Crawford.

Crawford asks all to mark their calendars. "On Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 1 to 3 p.m., we will be celebrating the long-awaited, infamous Noe Valley Town Square bathroom, with the Toilet Bowl!" She says the party will include a Toilet Tree that will act like a maypole; a crafts table where kids can decorate toilet paper roll ornaments; a live band that will include trombones with plungers; a potty costume contest; and a "Tee Pee, a giant tube that looks like a roll of toilet paper that kids can climb through."

Various dignitaries from City Hall are expected to attend the Toilet Bowl. So you won't want to miss it.

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THAT'S ALL, FOLKS: I will leave you with the biggest mystery of all: Why are our PG&E bills going through the roof?

The PUC granted PG&E rate hikes at the end of last year, and the word is out the utility is seeking another rate hike this year.

PG&E announced its profits for 2023 had surged to over \$2.2 billion, a jump of almost 25 percent. "These outrageous profits that the PG&E shareholders are pocketing are coming out of the pockets of customers," said Mark Toney, of the Utility Reform Network (TURN).

PG&E spent a fortune on ads telling us how hard they were working to keep us safe. The PUC should ban them from buying TV time—showing their ads over and over and over again.

Revolt, I say. ■



GET AHEAD OF SPRING AND ASK US ABOUT OUR LIST OF RESIDENCES THAT ARE COMING SOON!

300 Berry St. #618 | Mission Bay

1 BED | 1 BATH | \$699,000

This stylish one bedroom at Arterra makes the perfect new residence or commuter home - offering amenities and location, location, location. The home boasts a generous, light filled living area with open kitchen and dining. A spacious bedroom has an ensuite bath that also is accessible from the main living area. In residence laundry, plenty of closet space and dedicated parking complete this great opportunity to have it all, in the heart of it all. With the option to buy it with all the luxury furnishings, you really can just move right in! Arterra is San Francisco's first LEED-Silver residential green high-rise. Onsite luxuries include a sunny, view roof deck & BBQ, fitness center, community room, bike racks, private guest suite, parking garage & 24/7 attended lobby. Adventures abound right outside your front door - immediate access to Mission Park and Mission Creek offer kayaking, basketball, tennis, volleyball and waterfront walking paths. Grab a cup of coffee at Philz, shop at numerous boutiques, catch a game at the ballpark or Chase Center, shop local grocers and the farmer's market. This neighborhood is home to amazing cafes and numerous award winning restaurants, nightlife and craft cocktail bars. Caltrain, Muni, and easy freeway access - all within a block!



4258 26th St. | Noe Valley

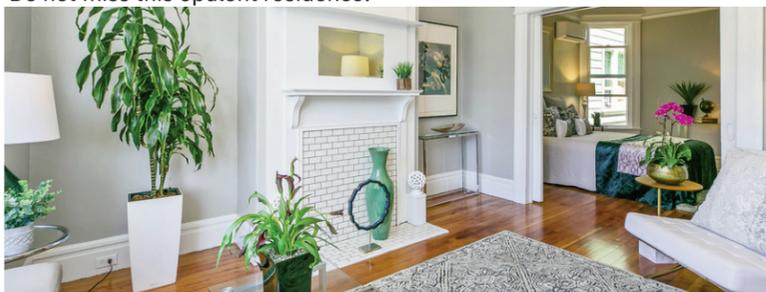
5 BED | 4.5 BATH | \$5,495,000 | COMING SOON

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!

2300 Leavenworth St. | Russian Hill

4 BED | 2 BATH | CALL FOR PRICING

Situated in a historic, private, gated enclave in Russian Hill, this beautifully updated and stunning 4-bedroom and 2-bathroom single-family home is a perfect city oasis! Featuring timeless architecture, stunning natural light and a rooftop terrace equipped with wet bar with outstanding views - this three-level home is exquisite! The entry-level offers a spacious flex space for a media room, office or guest space, with a full bath and gym. Up one level is the main living floor with an open kitchen, dining, living, and office with South, West, and Northern views. The top floor has three bedrooms, and full bath, and direct access to the rooftop terrace with incomparable views of Alcatraz, Coit Tower, the Bay Bridge, the skyline of the financial district, and the world-renowned flowering crooked street. Custom built-ins and decorative moldings are enjoyed throughout. One-car garage parking, and so much more await the next owner(s) of this fabulous home. Situated in highly sought-after Russian Hill, this immaculate residence is moments from the excellent amenities of Hyde Street, North Beach, the Polk Street corridor, and Fay Park. Don't miss the opportunity to acquire this coveted home in one of SF's most prestigious and exclusive locations. Do not miss this opulent residence!



1163 Alabama St. | Inner Mission

2 BED | 1 BATH | \$799,000 | COMING SOON

Remodeled 2-bed 1-bath Edwardian Flat at 24th street in the Mission. Low \$462 HOA dues, all new high end shared landscaped yard with deck/fire pit and BBQ, perfect Mission district weather all year round make this amazing yard very usable. Washer dryer in unit, air conditioning (rare for SF Edwardians), full remodel completed a couple of years ago, similar units recently sold in the building at higher prices, motivated seller, the asking price is transparent/not a teaser price. One year of leased parking at nearby Church paid by Seller.

780 Haight St. | Hayes Valley

3 BED | 2 BATH | \$2,750,000

This newly condo converted residence is the one! It's luxurious on the inside and the outside boasts a rare, lush DEEDED yard! Elegance and modern opulence combine to bring you a masterful mix of luxury finishes, incredible light and gorgeous indoor/outdoor harmony. The residence features a newly renovated designer kitchen that flows to multiple, spacious living and lounging areas. Three generous bedrooms w/custom closets, two zen marble baths, soaring ceilings, custom window shades and beautiful wide plank floors make this a sophisticated place to call home. The kitchen boasts Italian Porcelain stone slab counters and backsplashes, Miele appliances and custom cabinetry. The generous living areas feature custom windows and a huge skylight. The amenity rich backyard is a must see! In residence laundry and 2 car parking complete this amazing offering. Duboce Park, boutique shops, artisanal coffee, incredible restaurants, nightlife and craft cocktails are all just moments from your front door! Transit and the bike path are less than a block away. This condo has it all, in the heart of it all! Two massive, individual garages are leased across the street that provided two interior and one cover spot for parking and ample storage.



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