



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Brushing Up On Fire Safety In Noe Valley

What You Can Do to Stay Prepared in 2025

By Emily Hayes

The devastating wildfires in Los Angeles have rattled Americans from coast to coast. While unlikely to occur in Noe Valley, the tragedies are a good reminder to brush up on fire preparedness and think about how you would react in a similar disaster.

It's estimated that at least 29 people died and more than 16,000 homes and other structures were lost in the Los Angeles fires in January, with damages topping \$250 billion.

What does it mean for Noe Valley residents? Buildings located in the wildland urban interface (WUI), meaning near areas with burnable vegetation, are at risk for urban fires. There are some wild wooded areas nearby—like

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



One of 11 in Crew at 11: Joselito Barcena, an SFFD probationary firefighter, demonstrates gauges on an engine at Station 11, located at 26th and Church streets. Photo by Emily Hayes

Museums Put Ruth Asawa Art On World Stage

SFMOMA Launches a Global Retrospective of Icon's Work

By Corrie M. Anders

The complete works of the late Ruth Asawa, one of Noe Valley's most beloved artists, will be the subject of a global retrospective that starts next month at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

More than 300 pieces, from intricate looped-wire sculptures and paper folds to paintings and bronze casts, many evocative of Asawa's Castro Street home, will be on display from April 5 through Sept. 2.

"She would have been so excited to have a retrospective," Asawa's daughter, Addie Lanier, said of the two-year tour, which will travel from San Francisco to New York, Spain, and Switzerland. "For my mother," who

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Lace & Liberty: The Story of Its Unveiling at Castro and 24th Streets

The Noe Bridal Boutique Is the Icing on the Cake

By Kit Cameron

In 2012, Danielle Wen was about to be married. She had plans to walk down the aisle within a year, but she was working at a "more-than-fulltime job" in finance at UBS Financial Services in Hong Kong. She didn't have time to spend hours searching for a dress in a department store.

"I wanted a specific look," she says in recalling her frustration. "I couldn't find a dress that had both the top and the bottom that I wanted."

She wound up designing her gown with the help of a seamstress. "My wedding had 85 people—a nice gathering, and I felt really happy with my dress. I felt confident."

She also had an epiphany.

"Big designers sell in stores all over the country," she explains. "Small boutiques purchase from the big brands. They measure you and give you the size closest to the measurements." This means a size 8 customer with a larger than usual bust might be squeezed into an unflattering bodice, or a shorter bride could have to cope with a too-tall gown trimmed at the bottom. "Alterations are a big hassle when ordering standard sizes," Wen points out.

"I didn't see anywhere giving people options" to mix and match pieces, especially at prices couples could afford.

Collaborating with vendors to choose styles and fabrics was "so fun and personal" when Wen was making her own dress, she said to herself, "How can I create [a similar] custom experience for

more brides? This is something I can do."

That realization led her to launch her own business, Lace and Liberty, and

propelled her into the top tier of the Project Entrepreneur Venture Competition, a national accelerator for women-owned businesses.

Thirteen years later, at her bridal boutique anchoring the corner of Castro

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Dream Makers: Whether online or enveloped in satins and silks at 1301 Castro St., Lace and Liberty founder Danielle Wen (left) and lead designer Alison Chang are busy serving the needs of soon-to-be brides all over the country. Photo by Art Bodner



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REMEMBER

A Meeting of the
Dick Juhl Admiration
Society

By Susan Torres

In the past couple of years, have you been missing a smiling face in our neighborhood? This friendly man would turn up at the Noe Valley Bakery, most often on Senior Days, for a Chocolate Bombe or Red Velvet Cake. His love of the view of Twin Peaks often kept him at his window, where he would offer a smile and a “What’s up, kiddo?” to his many neighbors and friends.

If he was a neighbor to you, he could always be counted on to help...pick up your newspaper when you were gone, water your plants, and even offer to drive you to the airport. There might be a bag of plums or Meyer lemons placed at your door, and yes, maybe some of those Noe Valley Bakery treats.

Richard “Dick” Juhl, who passed away in March two years ago, was known as the “Mayor of the 900 Block of Sanchez Street.”

His friendliness and interest in everyone and everything made him the point person for information about our little niche of Noe Valley. Dick would like nothing better than for you to stop by to chat, so he could tell you proudly about the fragrant “Michelia doltsopa” magnolia trees that graced the sidewalk in front of his house. These magnificent specimens were once featured in the Friends of the Urban Forest newsletter.



Richard “Dick” Juhl was a doctor, spending the bulk of his career working at the Tenderloin Mental Health Clinic. He also was an artist, who delighted his neighbors on Sanchez Street with his “Kitsch Wall,” among other projects. Here, he kneels by a table he made using embedded geodes, beads, and pieces of jewelry.
Photo courtesy Susan Torres

When the property between our house and his was sold, Richard, my husband, Paul, and I were all heart-broken that a little Victorian, grand fig tree, and beautiful front garden would be destroyed. The developer’s plans were to build one huge building with two townhouses at the street. Not willing to give up without a fight, we got busy. We found other interested neighbors to sign a petition and meet with us for information, strategy, and support. Dick’s intelligence, good nature, and humor made this difficult venture a gift. We had made a friend for life!

Richard was a medical doctor with multiple specialties, but he was best remembered by colleagues for his com-

passionate work as a psychiatrist and supervisor at the Tenderloin Mental Health Clinic. As a gentle, man doctor sent to war, he held a special place in his heart for veterans, whether they never made it home, or had their lives changed forever by the horrors of war. He also was an artist. Collecting was in his nature, and he had a stash of rocks, broken jewelry, chains, silverware, lamp parts, and gargoyles. His notorious Kitsch Wall in his garage reflected his eclectic interests. From found objects, he created mosaic pots and mobiles, perfectly balanced and ever changing, out of silver forks and various other shiny objects. Merging his loves of photography

and genealogy, he spent “countless tranquil hours” (his words) walking local cemeteries and photographing gravestones. After doing some research, especially for veterans, he would send his work to the “Find-a-Grave” website. For more than a decade, he created 6,793 memorials and added 22,577 photographs to help genealogists and families the world over. A true Renaissance man, Dick loved Rachmaninov, great food, American Conservatory Theater performances, pianist Yuja Wang, gardening, clever social commentary, the beauty of nature, and a majestic full moon. He lovingly tended gorgeous African violets which he inherited from his Danish grandmother.

Maybe you knew him and miss him too? There will be an unveiling of a mosaic memorial in celebration of Richard’s life in front of 953 Sanchez St., on Sunday, March 23, at 11 a.m. Please come and bring a fond memory to share. If you cannot attend but wish to participate, there will be an opportunity to make your thoughts known at this remembrance via a ribbon to be attached to the mosaic memorial. (Contact Susan for details.) We’re looking forward to meeting more members of the Richard Juhl Admiration Society or anyone who wants to stop by to hear about a true character of Noe Valley...the kind of neighbor we all hope we can be for one another. Susan Torres wrote this tribute “with gratitude” that she had had the good fortune to be Dick Juhl’s friend and neighbor on Sanchez Street. For information about the March 23 event, contact Torres at 415-641-1309.



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THURS MAR 13	OFFSITE EVENT! THE FISHWIFE COOKBOOK PARTY WITH PIERRECLOS IMPORTS + OMNIVORE BOOKS • 5:00 - 8:00 P.M. AT GOLDEN SARDINE (362 COLUMBUS AVE) • Join Fishwife cofounder & CEO Becca Millstein for an evening of delicious bites and great wine! No reservations needed—just show up! Books will be available for purchase onsite.
THURS MAR 20	ZAREEN AND UMAIR KHAN • ZAREEN’S PAKISTANI KITCHEN: RECIPES FROM A WELL-FED CHILDHOOD • 6:30 P.M. FREE! Zareen and Umair Khan bring the flavors of their beloved Bay Area restaurants to Zareen’s Pakistani Kitchen, a riot of spice, soul, and street food swagger with 95 vibrant recipes and cultural stories.
TUES MAR 25	BEN SHEWRY • USES FOR OBSESSION: A CHEF’S MEMOIR • 6:30 P.M. FREE! The visionary chef behind Melbourne’s Attica, delivers a raw, irreverent dive into the highs, lows, and crispy-edged lasagnes of a life spent chasing culinary perfection and redefining modern gastronomy.

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LETTERS

73¢

Why Did the Chicken Not Cross the Road?

Editor:

Yesterday my wife drove down 30th Street to run a few errands. At one point she glanced over to see an individual in a colorful chicken suit standing on the sidewalk, not entering the crosswalk but waving in a friendly fashion towards her. My wife thought this was some sort of promotional gimmick and returned the wave.

Suddenly a patrol car came into view and pulled her over.

The officer cited her for obstructing the chicken’s ability to walk across the street in the crosswalk, despite the fact that the chicken—who turned out to be another police officer—had made no move to enter the designated crosswalk area.

The ticket was for \$238.

Returning home she spotted several more officers pulling over other motorists who had apparently also run “afoul” of the walking poultry.

While I salute the local police for going after road miscreants who violate driving laws—many 30th Street drivers blow through stop signs—this chicken business strikes me as being very close to entrapment and suggests a sting operation.

This is outrageous.

Jack Skorzeny
30th Street

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

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CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA

Noe Valley Incident Reports January 2024 – January 2025

Incident Type	Jan24	Feb24	Mar24	Apr24	May24	Jun24	July24	Aug24	Sep24	Oct24	Nov24	Dec24	Yr2024	Jan25
Larceny/Theft	32	31	42	42	49	32	49	36	46	44	55	44	460	42
Burglary	19	19	16	14	13	33	39	21	16	17	19	17	243	17
Malicious Mischief	3	8	11	6	9	7	5	8	8	7	4	3	79	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	11	11	5	15	8	12	10	10	8	8	3	109	6
Assault	3	4	4	3	5	4	3	3	2	8	5	6	32	2
Robbery	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	0	3	16	0
Other Miscellaneous	3	5	5	6	20	19	7	8	6	17	14	7	117	13
Fraud	4	4	3	4	3	4	0	5	1	5	3	4	40	0
Family D.Violence	3	0	3	0	4	0	0	3	1	2	5	1	22	0
Vandalism	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
Totals	78	83	96	80	119	108	119	98	92	108	113	88	1,122	89

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783/>. This data 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* scraped the January 2025 data on Feb. 10, 2025. “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 2025

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Crime Stats Stable: A Few Up, a Few Down

The crime picture in Noe Valley at the start of 2025 looked about the same as it had at the end of 2024. Shoplifting, car break-ins, and burglaries—all were still afflicting neighborhood residents and merchants.

In January, there were 89 reports of criminal activity in the 10 categories that the *Voice* tracks monthly via the city’s digital map of police incident reports. That was one more than in December 2024.

As usual, most fell in the “larceny/theft” category. Police recorded 42 incidents in January—a slight improvement over December (44).

The January tally included 11 “smash-and-grab” or other thefts from vehicles, 12 thefts of items from resi-

dential or “other” buildings, and 14 shoplifting incidents, most of which occurred near the intersection of Castro and Jersey streets. Thieves also swiped two license plates, stole a bicycle, stripped parts from a vehicle, and fraudulently used a credit card.

There also were 17 burglaries, the same number as in December. Prowlers targeted seven residences, four businesses, one home under construction, and five unidentified buildings.

“Malicious mischief” and “other miscellaneous” reports were up—22 incidents compared with 10 in December. Miscreants damaged mailboxes or broke windows in buildings or cars.

While there were two reported assaults in January, police recorded zero cases of robbery or domestic violence. That means aggression was down in Noe Valley, already known as one of the safest neighborhoods in San Francisco.

As for how January 2025 compared with January of last year, crime was up 14 percent, mainly due to rises in larceny/theft and miscellaneous crimes.

You can view the Noe Valley and

other neighborhoods’ statistics at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org). We scraped the January data for “Noe Valley” on Feb. 10, 2025. The SFPD defines Noe Valley as the area bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

To report recurring incidents within the Mission Police District, contact Mission Station Captain Liza Johansen at Liza.tiffee@sfgov.org. For station information, call 415-558-5400.

Contact Captain Amy Hurwitz at Amy.Hurwitz@sfgov.org or 415-404-4000 if incidents occur within Ingleside Police District, south of Cesar Chavez.

If you have an emergency in San Francisco, call 9-1-1. Or, if you are on a cell phone and it’s urgent, call SFPD dispatch at 415-553-8090.

If it’s not, use the non-emergency 415-553-0123.

SFPD says businesses wishing to participate in the department’s Organized Retail Crime Operation should email sfpd.retailtheft@sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



OBf was unable to submit a cartoon this month. So the *Voice* opted to run a cartoon from our April 1928 issue. —Ed.



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Community Outreach Public Notice

Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 2.81



San Francisco Board of Supervisors Board or Commission Vacancies: *Participate on a Board or Commission!*

The Assessment Appeals Board (AAB): The AAB resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision. To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

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Department Announcements

The Office of Transgender Initiatives: Trans Day of Visibility Celebration: March 30, 2025 | 6 PM. Green Room SF | 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco. Join us for San Francisco's Trans Day of Visibility Celebration! Amidst the increasing attacks on the trans community, it's important that we come together in joy, strength, and resistance. Join us for an evening of powerful performances and a celebration of trans resilience. Enjoy free food and incredible local talent with trans community members and allies. Plus, visit our resource fair to get support with gender and name changes, immigration assistance, information on gender-affirming care, and more!

Child Support Services: Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. We are available to assist you in person or by phone. Virtual services are also available. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 for more information. Enroll online or schedule an appointment at sf.gov/dcss to learn how we can help you.

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Housing Authority: The Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco (Authority) is actively seeking new property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The program provides housing assistance to eligible individuals and families by paying a portion of their rent to private property owners. **Key benefits:** 1. Guaranteed Monthly Rent: Property owners can rely on timely direct deposit rental payments from the Authority. 2. Expanded Tenant Pool: Property owners gain access to a broader pool of prospective tenants. 3. Community Impact: Partnering with the Authority supports affordable housing and the community. We are interested in expanding housing opportunities in San Francisco zip codes 94129, 94123, 94105, 94127, 94114, 94131, 94116, 94118, 94158, 94122, 94107, 94117, 94112, 94121, 94110 and immediate suburban areas. For more information, please contact us at customer-care@spha.org or learn more at www.spha.org.

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REAL ESTATE

DANIELLE LAZIER

(vêˈvr) v. [Fr.] to live; to experience.

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R. M.

Curious About the Noe Valley Real Estate Market?

There are always twists and turns in SF real estate, but in broad terms the market is improving. As the city's first real estate blog, established 2002, our website and biweekly newsletter are your go-to source for information. Scan the QR to see the latest.



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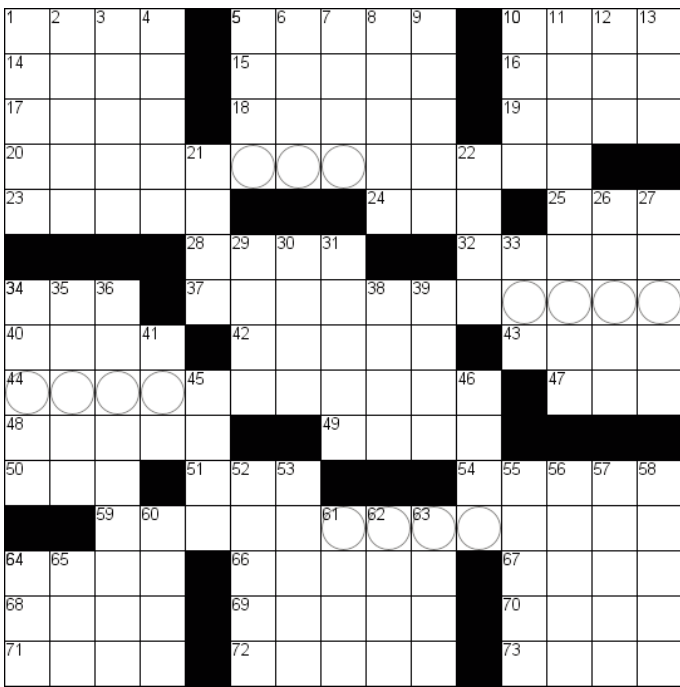
THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Hooking Up

ACROSS

- 1. Do laps in a pool
- 5. Lion sounds
- 10. Ain't corrected?
- 14. Newsweek rival
- 15. Mendocino's County Seat
- 16. Actor Wilson of "Midnight in Paris"
- 17. Actor Baldwin
- 18. Comaneci with seven perfect tens at the 1976 Olympics
- 19. German figure skater Katarina
- 20. Traditional 12/31 Southern side dish
- 23. Biblical high point
- 24. Ocean
- 25. SF part
- 28. George Bernard ____

- 32. Jewish teacher
- 34. ____ and arrow
- 37. "The Empire ____": "Star Wars" sequel
- 40. "I Ain't Marching Anymore" singer Phil
- 42. Scrabble pieces
- 43. Edit menu command
- 44. Quickly cook breakfast, lunch, or dinner
- 47. Barbie's guy
- 48. Itty-bitty bits
- 49. In addition
- 50. Have a bite
- 51. Ending with Brooklyn or Canton
- 54. Playbill listings
- 59. Church Street salon ... or a place where the circled words can hook up and make longer words
- 64. Sit & ____: laundromat on 18th Street
- 66. Seize, as a throne



- 67. Biggest of the three bears
- 68. Glove filler
- 69. Muhammad Ali's boxing daughter
- 70. Idle of Monty Python
- 71. Avant-garde
- 72. Big name in chicken
- 73. Canoodle

DOWN

- 1. Assaults with a knife
- 2. "When ____ Be Loved" (Ronstadt tune)
- 3. "To clarify..."
- 4. Any big tourist attraction
- 5. Ancient alphabetical character
- 6. "Fine by me"
- 7. Assistant
- 8. Midnight fridge visits
- 9. "The ____ of Water"

- 10. Council Bluffs' state
- 11. Site of many clan-destine accounts
- 12. "Nothing but ____": many Curry baskets
- 13. Explosive initials
- 21. Smooch
- 22. "I'm all ____"
- 26. Alphabetic quintet
- 27. Canon rival
- 29. Internet address opening
- 30. SF Opera solo
- 31. Pebbles Flintstone's mom
- 33. ____ Dhabi, Persian Gulf port
- 34. David who sang "Space Oddity"
- 35. Lorena of LPGA fame
- 36. Creating with a pen knife and wood
- 38. Boat bottom
- 39. Those, in the mlsion
- 41. Noe Valley ____:

- place with a hot tut
- 45. Does drugs
- 46. Ness, for one
- 52. ____ Ste. Marie, Mich.
- 53. Literary composition
- 55. Colorado resort
- 56. Bowling term
- 57. Subject
- 58. Pile of pancakes
- 60. "500" race
- 61. San ____ Obispo
- 62. Singer Guthrie
- 63. The Bay Bridge, for one
- 64. Miss identification?
- 65. Cushion

March 2025 Noe Valley Voice

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



Time to Up Your Fire Preparedness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McLaren Park, Glen Canyon, and Bernal Hill—that locals should be concerned about, but to date (knock on wood) we haven’t had the hot winds that drove the fires in Los Angeles, commented Erica Arteseros, acting chief of the Homeland Security Division of the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).

“For WUI areas, we would encourage people to trim back anything that’s touching their home, convert to more drought-resistant landscaping, and to keep a fire extinguisher in a few places in the home, because if the fire is small and you can put it out, you can prevent a very large fire,” said Arteseros, who was formerly the program coordinator for the SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) released draft updated fire risk assessments for state counties, including San Francisco, in January and February. Whereas older maps for San Francisco County issued in 2011 indicated no risk, the agency designated 561 acres, including parts of Angel Island and near Fort Funston, as having some degree of risk this time around, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on Feb. 25. In comparison, Sonoma County now has almost 7,600 acres deemed to be at very high risk of fire.

Meanwhile, as our own city’s history shows, large earthquakes post a significant risk for major fires. Some 300 SFFD firefighters are on duty at any given time to work during a disaster.

“Unless a fire starts in multiple locations at the same time, the fire department will throw all of our resources at a large fire that’s burning in a park area near homes,” Arteseros said.

The Bay Area NERT program, started in 1990 as a response to the Loma Prieta earthquake, offers free training for residents in preparing for disasters, including fires and earthquakes. In the fire sections of the program, residents learn about types of fire hazards (electrical, natural gas, flammable, or com-

bustible liquids), and fire extinguishers. Chemical extinguishing agents are right for kitchen oil fires, while water, foam, and dry chemical extinguishing agents work on ordinary solid materials, according to the NERT student manual, which is available online. The program also includes basic safety, search and rescue techniques, and emergency planning. In the event of a major disaster, NERT volunteers also play an important role communicating to the SFFD where people are in need.

Minding the Kids

Noe Valley is home for many families, and they should make sure they have an emergency plan that takes their children into account, perhaps by partnering with another parent at their children’s school, or with a neighbor parent, Arteseros suggested.

Since 1990, 37,000 volunteers have been through NERT training in San Francisco, including about 2,500 active participants. The Noe Valley neighborhood has one of the longest serving coordinators in the city: Maxine Fasulis, who has been on board for almost 29 years. More than 400 people have been trained in our neighborhood, and Fasulis estimates there are from 15 to 30 very active participants.

The NERT team in Noe Valley has an emergency meeting area at Noe Courts Park, across the street from Philz Coffee at 24th and Douglass. If a large fire erupts, it’s possible cell towers will go down, making it difficult to communicate. And by the way, the red emergency call boxes lining the streets are no longer being maintained by the city, due to high costs.

The Noe team will set up whiteboards with information and message boards where neighbors can leave notes for family and friends. NERT volunteers will communicate by walking from the staging area to the fire department or communicating by amateur radio, also called ham radio, Fasulis said. Ham radios are relatively inexpensive, starting at \$30. Licensing is also accessible. For example, the Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society (BAEARS) offers a one-day study and testing session for \$35.

The closest fire station to the staging area is the 111-year-old Station 24,



NERT coordinator Maxine Fasulis stands beneath Station 24 at 100 Hoffman Ave. The 111-year-old landmark is still in use, she says, primarily for firefighter training. Photo by Sally Smith

located at 100 Hoffman Ave. It is often used for firefighter training, Fasulis said.

Not the Red Cross

Fasulis would like the Noe Valley community to be aware that the NERT team will not be providing supplies.

“We don’t provide food. We don’t provide water. We don’t provide shelter. We’re not the Red Cross,” Fasulis said. “What we do teach people is how to put together a plan for contacting your friends and relatives and where to meet in the event of a disaster. We also provide kit lists so that you are prepared.”

Kevin McKeon, a chief at SFFD Battalion 6, which covers the Noe Valley and Mission districts, advises residents to visit the website www.sf72.org to prepare for emergencies.

“Basically, you want to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours. Do you have food? Do you have water? Do you know how to turn on or turn off your power and gas?” said McKeon in an interview at Fire Station 11 at 3880 26th St., between Church and Dolores.

McKeon advises residents to secure their homes and not to evacuate unless ordered to do so.

“Personally, I would stay at my house. I would only evacuate if I was ordered to do so or if I felt that the house was unsafe,” McKeon said.

Visiting Station 11

Most fires in Noe Valley are small and contained to one room. Common causes include cooking, unattended candles, lithium batteries on mobile scooters and other vehicles, and outside fires in encampments.

According to the SFFD public information office, there were 47 fires in the neighborhood in 2024, 12 of which were cooking-related, and 46 fires in 2023, including 18 cooking fires (see table at left). Seven of 93 fires from 2023–2024 were working fires, meaning they are larger and take a lot of

Noe Valley Fires, 2023–2024

Fire Type	2023	2024	Total
Cooking fire	18	12	30
Garbage fire	14	9	23
Outside fire	6	6	12
Vehicle fire	1	6	7
Other fire	3	4	7
Structure fire	2	5	7
Working fire/greater alarm	2	5	7
Totals	46	47	93

Source: SFFD

effort to extinguish.

In case of fire, residents should call 911, which is managed by the California Highway Patrol, rather than phone the department directly.

During a *Voice* ride-along with the team at Station 11, firefighters responded to a smoke alarm that had gone off mid-morning and was reported by a neighbor. Smoke alarms typically need to be replaced every 10 years, and when they stop working, they start beeping. It’s best to get the combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and place them in various rooms.

The Station 11 team also regularly has drills for low-frequency/high-risk events. On the day of the *Voice* visit, McKeon, using his own red SUV (called a chief’s buggy) with a buckled-in dummy stuck in the passenger seat, instructed the station’s firefighters on how to extricate a person from a burning car and use a “jaws of life” rescue tool. Thankfully, these incidents don’t happen often, but the team needs to be prepared.

“Vehicle safety has come a long way in the last 20 years,” McKeon said.

Check out the SFFD website at <https://sf-fire.org/nert> and the NERT calendar for upcoming free training sessions. Fasulis recommends NERT training for all, even if you don’t want to volunteer during a disaster. ■



Battalion Chief Kevin McKeon manages a group of fire stations including Station 11 on 26th Street, where 11 men and women rotate through on 24-hour shifts. Photo by Emily Hayes

Children Get to Help Design New School

Editor's Note: Children's Day School sent us this piece about a project the students are very excited about. We edited the story (and the beautiful photos by Bruce Damonte) to fit our space.

By Kerri O'Malley

Children's Day School (CDS) proudly unveiled its newly constructed Early Childhood Program Center in September, marking a significant enhancement to the school's 333 Dolores St. campus. Parents, students, teachers, and alumni gathered to explore the new facility. The ceremony culminated with an inaugural ride down a 35-foot slide that connects the playground on top of the center's roof to the yard below.

Since its founding, CDS has provided a robust early childhood program, and the new center continues that long-standing commitment. The new 8,000-square-foot space was designed specifically for the school's preschool and transitional kindergarten students. *(The middle school is at 601 Dolores St.)*

"The 333 Campus Expansion Project all began with our students creating storyboards of their hopes and dreams for a reimagined space," said Shelly Luke Wille, Head of School at CDS, an independent preschool-to-grade-eight school.

While the project began with the necessity to replace aging preschool bungalows, it quickly became a dynamic learning opportunity for the entire school community.

During the planning phase, students read the book *If I Built a School* by

VALLEY VIEWS



Above: Children's Day School's new preschool campus at 333 Dolores St., was unveiled last fall. Below: Kids and staff try out the sky-lit classroom space. Photos courtesy Bruce Damonte



Chris Van Dusen and shared their ideas with the CDS staff and Jensen Architects, the project's designers. While not every idea—such as a zipline or a unicorn ranch—made the final cut, many student contributions influenced the design, including the rooftop slide, whisper phones between classrooms, and a large sandbox filled with 3,650 pounds of play sand.

Students remained engaged during construction, observing the building process, interviewing workers and architects, and experimenting with materials and designs in their classrooms. They studied and created their own blueprints and tested out what they learned in construction zone play areas. Transitional kindergarten students also crafted a short movie, *The Sunny Day of Construction*, and shared their gratitude for the workers through art, gifts, and songs.

The new center features special spaces for art, tinkering, and digital innovation. The rooftop yard adds 10,000 square feet of outdoor play space. The school features a heritage elm tree, giving the building its nickname, "The Treehouse."

"This space was designed with a deep understanding of how young children learn," said Antonette Greene, director of the CDS Early Childhood Program. "It includes classrooms sized to fit best practices, so teachers can create multiple, active learning stations for students to move between simultaneously and a special outdoor courtyard for messy science and play."

The new center underscores CDS's recognition that learning begins from the earliest years. "Early childhood education isn't 'pre-school'—it's where real school begins," said CDS co-founder Tracy Kirkham. ■

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Inquire Within

Ruth Asawa: SF Debuts Global Retrospective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

died in 2013 at 87 years old, “a major retrospective would have been welcome, of course, but not unexpected,” Lanier told the *Voice*. “I think her work as an artist...was always the most important and the most fulfilling aspect of her life.”

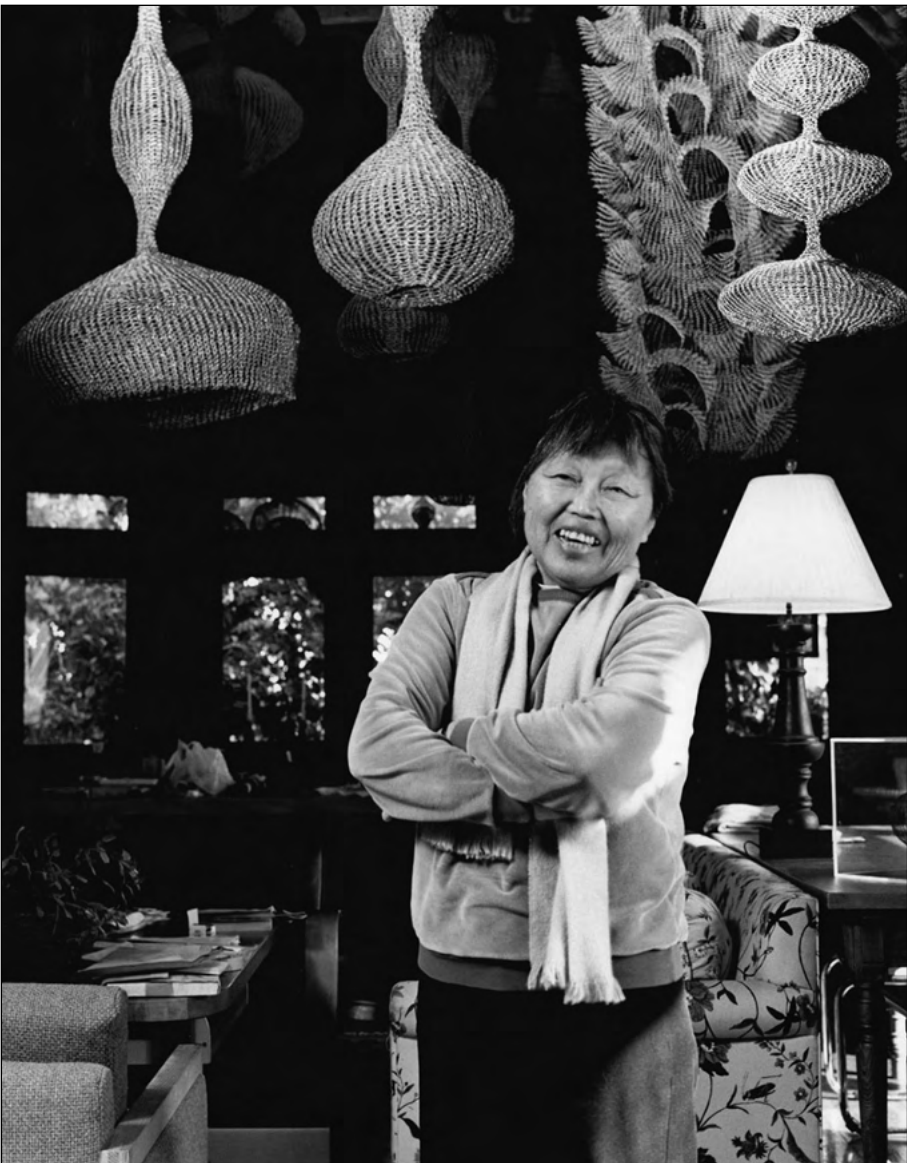
The exhibition, with the simple title *Ruth Asawa: Retrospective*, was an opportunity to share the artist’s ground-breaking work with a wider audience, noted SFMOMA curator Janet Bishop.

“It is an immense privilege to present the full range of Ruth Asawa’s life’s work through this retrospective,” said Bishop.

“Not only was Asawa an exceptionally talented artist—among the most distinguished sculptors of the 20th century and a major contributor in so many other mediums—but she lived her values in everything she did, modeling the importance of the arts and opening up creative opportunities for others at every turn,” she said.

Asawa also was a local celebrity. She moved to Noe Valley in 1961 with her husband, architect Albert Lanier (1927–2008), and their six children, all under age 11. Along with art historian Sally Brunn, Asawa in the late 1960s co-founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop at Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass Street. There, they led the students in creating colorful clay mosaics and a model arts program.

In 2024, President Joe Biden presented Asawa with a posthumous National



In this circa 1990 image, Ruth Asawa smiles while standing in her living room amidst the sculptural orbs for which she’s most famous. A retrospective of the late artist’s work is set to begin April 5 at SFMOMA. Artwork © 2025 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Medal of Arts to honor her lifetime contribution. Her body of work includes permanent installations at Stanford and the de Young Museum, acclaimed public sculptures and fountains in San Francisco, and a cornucopia of drawings, paintings, prints, miniatures, wall hangings, and masks.

A first-generation Japanese-American born on a farm outside Los Angeles, Asawa learned the art of drawing while at an Arkansas internment camp, where her family had been forced to go during World War II. She also studied at Black Mountain College in North Carolina before moving to San Francisco.

The exhibition, which culled works from many museums and private collections, spans Asawa’s entire career. One gallery at SFMOMA will showcase her art from the 1950s, including her wire sculptures, while an adjacent wing will display the artist’s designs for commercial projects, including fabric patterns and wallpaper. Another room will examine “the artist’s deep affinity with the organic world and its relationship to her practice in both two and three dimensions.”

Of particular interest to Noe Valleyans may be the gallery that offers a look at Asawa’s “inspirations, exploring the ways her longtime San Francisco home and garden served as

the epicenter of her creative universe.”

The art there will feature sculptures that once hung from the ceiling in the family’s living room, original hand-carved redwood doors, clay and bronze

creations, Asawa’s sketchbooks, and works she and Albert Lanier displayed by fellow artists, including Josef Albers, Ray Johnson, Peggy Tolk-Watkins, and Marguerite Wildenhain. Also on view will be a selection of paintings and drawings of plants and flowers she made during the 1990s and early 2000s.

It is not surprising that the Noe Valley residence is an integral part of the exhibition, notes Addie Lanier.

“My parents’ home was central to their sense of being and identity,” she said. “The living room was where she created work, hung sculptures from the rafters, held community meetings, gathered her family, and celebrated weddings.”

At press time, SFMOMA officials and the Lanier family were working on a plan to take the high school student body from the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts on a field trip to the museum.

“What a memorable way to not only celebrate the school’s namesake, but to use the wider city as a classroom to show the school’s students and faculty what being an amazing visual artist looks like,” Lanier said.

After SFMOMA, the exhibition will move to the co-sponsoring Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) from Oct. 19, 2025, to Feb. 7, 2026. Then it travels to the Guggenheim Bilbao in Spain March 20 to Sept. 13, 2026. Finally, it will stay at the Fondation Beyeler, in Riehen/Basel, Switzerland, from Oct. 18, 2026, through Jan. 24, 2027.

The exhibition will be free to museum members and guests 18 years and younger. For information on tickets, which go on sale March 11, visit sfmoma.org or call 415-357-4000. ■



Ruth Asawa’s *Poppy*, a 1965 lithograph, will be among more than 300 paintings, sculptures, and other unique works in a two-year global retrospective presented by SFMOMA in partnership with The Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA). Artwork © 2025 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; courtesy David Zwirner; Voice photo courtesy SFMOMA

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Bridal Boutique Lace & Liberty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and 24th streets, she is welcoming clients not only from the Bay Area but (digitally) from around the world.

The Path Down the Aisle

It helps that Wen speaks fluent Mandarin. She was born in Beijing and, as an infant, came to the United States along with her parents, who both pursued secondary degrees before they returned to China to work for U.S. companies. Wen spent her college years at MIT, got a degree in economics in 2006, and then immediately took up the job with UBS in Hong Kong, where she lived and worked for eight years before returning to the U.S.

She ditched her financial career in 2014 and, with the help of her tech-savvy husband, Neil Leonard, opened her online bridal emporium, Laceandliberty.com, in 2015, the same year they moved to the United States. She chose “lace” because that is a major feature of most wedding gowns, and “liberty” to emphasize “the freedom to choose your own style.”

Her first task was finding a workshop to craft the designs she created. She discovered a whole industry in Shanghai making beautiful confections one by one. She visits the workshop about three times a year. “I want to vet my partners to have quality control,” she says. Photos of the dress in process keep designer and customer up to date, and details that are not working can be changed before the dress is finished.

Helped by stellar Yelp reviews of her new online business, Wen was soon shipping to states across the nation.

On a Fashion Runway

When, in 2017, she was chosen one of three winners among 200 female founders in the Project Entrepreneur competition, she joined a cohort that received mentoring, legal help, and a \$10,000 grant from the event’s sponsors, UBS Financial Services and the Rent the Runway Foundation (which helps consumers share high-fashion clothing).



A customer awaits entry by appointment only to the inner sanctum of Lace and Liberty, at the corner of 24th and Castro streets.
Photo by Art Bodner

Wen won over the panel of judges with her pitch for made-to-order bridal-wear with direct-to-consumer convenience. “Project Entrepreneur was so special to me because of the fact that they’re in apparel and they’re very supportive of female entrepreneurs. They got me thinking about the experience you have,” she said, as either a “virtual bride” online or a customer in a salon.

Advice from the Project’s mentors shaped her next major decision. “They encouraged me to use a storefront to show off the work,” she says. She found one on Valencia Street and remained there for two years. But, she says, “I wanted to open a store on 24th Street from day one. I love Noe Valley. I live in the neighborhood.”

In early 2020, she secured the sunny corner spot at 1301 Castro St., where Cotton Basics held court for many years. “It was the best location in the best neighborhood I could imagine. I absolutely loved it.”

And then Covid intervened. “Weddings shut down. There were still a few brides, but most were putting off their weddings.”

She was forced to up her game in cyberspace. Fortunately, husband Leonard had the engineering chops to create a good online experience for customers. “He was taking what is going

on in AI and putting it to application use.” Wen made sure the online process was frictionless during Zoom calls with clients. “We created very in-depth questions. We sent fabric samples so they could touch and feel,” followed by production photographs showing the gown being put together. Wen notes, “We got through Covid, and weddings started coming back in summer 2021.”

Netting a Perfect Dress

A client typically starts by browsing themes and collections on the website. An in-person or video consultation with Wen, lead bridal designer Alison Chang, or bridal designer Nancy Guillen solidifies the vision into details such as neckline, fabric, and skirt length. The designer creates an initial sketch for the bride, and they go back and forth over questions of bodice type, sleeve length, and ornamentation until they reach the final sketch from which the gown is made.

The semi-custom process that Wen created ensures the gown fits the bride’s shape and height. While a fully custom dress can be \$5,000 to \$6,000, according to Wen, she is able to offer what a client wants for as little as \$2,000, with most gowns in the \$2,500 to \$3,500 range.

At the boutique on Castro Street, visitors can also choose from a selection of skirts, tops, and accessories. A row of fabric samples from satin to charmeuse complements the six racks of sample dresses in shades of white, cream, and nude.

“Seventy-five percent of brides love something we have already, with small customization. They may want it fully lined or want to add straps or lower the back or add lace on the bottom,” says Wen.

Most clients opt for the traditional white. However, increasingly, they may pick red, black, or even dark bottle green. Black is, of course, de rigueur for Halloween weddings.

Other trends come and go. For a while, it was feathers. At the moment, it is a dropped waistline. One bride held a masquerade ball, Wen remembers. “She wore a velvet taffeta gown, really out there. All the guests work masks.”

To create drama, clients add head-pieces, shoulder veils, sparkly netting, capes, and chiffon streamers.

Real lace, Wen notes, adds to the price. But an idyllic wedding day is the goal. “When you are a bride, everyone is looking at you.”

A Match Made in Noe

Wen is an unabashed 24th Street booster. Her tight relationships with local businesses have her recommending Noe Valley eateries for post-fitting brunches or touting local vendors for bridal gifts and shower treats. “With brides coming from all over the Bay Area, I like to show that Noe Valley is not downtown San Francisco.” She sends them off to window-shop and eat brunch at Novy after their fittings. “They like that it’s family-friendly, with lots of strollers.”

Speaking of family-friendly, Wen and Leonard have two children, a “very princess” 5-year-old named Isla, and Wolfie, who’s 2. The family have lived on Valley Street since they moved here in 2015, and Isla attends Starr King School.

“We would love to be more local, at Alvarado, but Starr King has a Mandarin immersion program,” Wen says. The children are her biggest fans, and Isla “recommended me to her teacher.”

Wen says January is the busiest month of the year—for her, Chang, Guillen, and production manager Mia Lin. But texts and calls are pouring in all spring.

A standard timeline for the salon is six months, “but we can do a rush order in two months.”

Online clients are usually clear about their needs, Wen says, whereas those who come in person often “try on dresses without knowing exactly what they want. I give them champagne. It’s fun, a celebration.”

Sometimes, Wen reflects, the brides’ “moms are really involved and have strong opinions.” Still, she makes sure the most important person in the room gets the final say.

“I help make sure the bride’s own voice is heard.” ■



Bridal designers Nancy Guillen (left) and Alison Chang encircle Lace and Liberty founder and CEO Danielle Wen in the brick-and-mortar symbol of their thriving business.
Photo courtesy Kristina Nguyen, Nohea Photography



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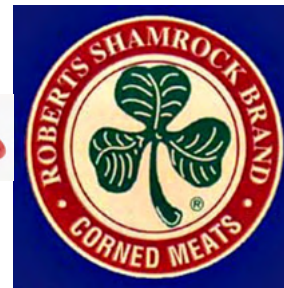


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Low Inventory Creates High Demand

By Corrie M. Anders

Residential shoppers in Noe Valley, finding relatively bare shelves in the real estate market, opened with serious bids to snag six single-family homes in January.

The short supply of homes for sale during the holidays created enough demand that buyers on average paid 9 percent more than sellers were asking.

The sales numbers were among data that Corcoran Icon Properties supplies monthly to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Though a small sample, the January data still reflected people's desire to live in Noe Valley.

In two of the six sales, buyers were so determined they picked up their homes in private deals before the prop-



A buyer in January paid \$3,775,000 for this renovated Victorian on Sanchez Street. The three-level home featured three bedrooms and four bathrooms, a chef's kitchen, and a private rooftop deck.

erties were available to the public, noted Christine Lopatowski, a real estate agent with 20 years' experience who has been manager of Corcoran's 24th Street office since 2018.

One of the buyers paid the \$3,050,000 list price for a renovated three-bedroom home on Day Street. In the other "off-market" sale, the would-be owner secured a Sanchez Street address in a \$3,775,000 preemptive offer that was 5 percent more than the seller's asking price (\$3,595,000).

Despite the scant options, buyers moved quickly, making offers in 18 days compared with 65 days last January.

"We always come into the holidays with lower inventory," Lopatowski said. "But we do have those people who are still looking, and so we have a few deals that tend to happen during those holiday months. They are willing to pay over asking if there is a bidding competition."

Unlike their "single-family" counterparts, however, condominium shoppers pretty much stayed home. They purchased only three units and took a little over nine weeks to make an offer, on average.

This spring, however, Lopatowski



This Duncan Street property truly has a million-dollar view. That and its arts and crafts style may have been the big draws for the January buyer who paid \$2,925,925 for a top-floor condominium in the building, constructed in 2001. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2025	Average February 2025	Average Dec 24/Jan 25	Average February 2024
Studio	2	\$2,300 – \$2,500	\$2,400 / mo.	\$2,323 / mo.	\$2,396 / mo.
1-bdrm	14	\$2,700 – \$4,500	\$3,466 / mo.	\$2,947 / mo.	\$2,873 / mo.
2-bdrm	28	\$2,995 – \$7,550	\$4,117 / mo.	\$4,086 / mo.	\$3,795 / mo.
3-bdrm	5	\$3,764 – \$9,195	\$5,538 / mo.	\$6,671 / mo.	\$5,255 / mo.
4+-bdrm	1	\$13,500	\$13,500 / mo.	\$7,716 / mo.	\$9,021 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 50 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 19 to Feb. 12, 2025. In February 2024, there were 91 listings. NVV3/2025

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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 2025	6	\$1,611,100	\$3,775,000	\$2,500,350	18	109%
December 2024	3	\$2,300,000	\$4,380,000	\$3,393,333	41	108%
January 2024	4	\$1,325,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,012,500	65	102%
Condominiums/TICs						
January 2025	3	\$729,000	\$2,925,925	\$990,000	64	105
December 2024	2	\$888,888	\$1,625,000	\$1,306,500	47	96%
January 2024	5	\$1,044,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,396,400	61	96%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2025	3	\$1,260,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,650,000	73	103
December 2024	4	\$1,350,000	\$1,998,000	\$1,665,750	49	100%
January 2024	1	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	144	81%
5+-unit buildings						
January 2025	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2024	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2024	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. NVV3/2025

expects real estate activity to perk up, with more sellers emerging from their winter slumber and providing buyers a wider choice of homes for sale. In just the first half of February, Lopatowski said, she had seen more than two dozen new property listings—15 homes and 13 condos—in Noe Valley.

The most expensive property that closed escrow in January was the \$3,775,000 private sale of a home in the 1200 block of Slow Sanchez Street, between Clipper and 26th streets.

The 1905 Victorian home had been updated in 2015 to accommodate three bedrooms and four bathrooms in 2,524 square feet of living space.

The three-level home featured a redesigned open floor plan, a chef's kitchen with Miele and Wolfe appli-

ances, radiant floor heating, a private rooftop deck with a soaking tub, and one-car parking.

A top-floor unit in a 2001 arts and crafts building perched on a bluff at the end of a cul de sac was the most expensive condominium sold in January. The buyer paid \$2,925,925—8 percent more than the owner's asking price (\$2,695,000).

Located in the 500 block of Duncan Street between Noe and Castro streets, the dwelling had three bedrooms and three baths spread over 2,618 square feet of living space. Highlights included an open floor. plan, vaulted ceilings, a gourmet kitchen, a gas fireplace, parking for one car, and walk-out decks with unobstructed views of downtown San Francisco and the East Bay. ■

★★★★★

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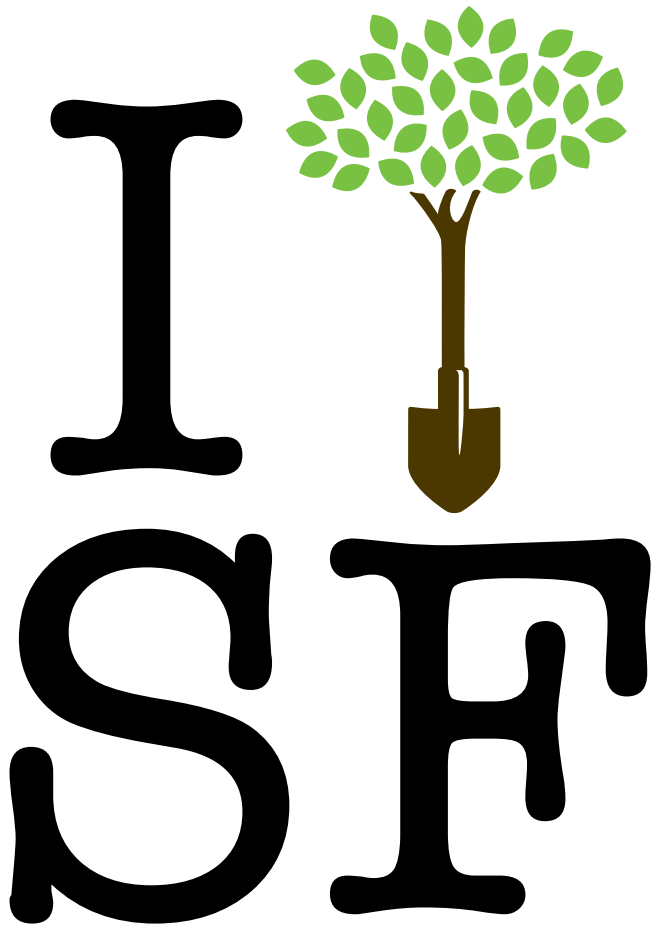
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SHORT TAKES

Haydn Go Seek With Dvořák

The famed Horszowski Trio, composed of Jesse Mills on violin, Ole Akahoshi on cello, and Rieko Aizawa on piano, will return to the Noe Music series on Sunday, March 16, for a concert of classical and new music, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry.

The trio gave a sold-out performance the last time they visited in 2019, described by one series subscriber as “the best concert I’ve ever heard,” so you might want to check for tickets before arriving at the church, 1021 Sanchez St. near 23rd.

The program will feature Haydn’s Piano Trio in E minor; an Aizawa-influenced Six Little Pieces, Op. 19, by Schoenberg; William Bolcom’s “Haydn Go Seek” for piano trio (2008); and Dvořák’s Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81, deemed “sublime” by the critics.

Joining the trio for the Dvořák will be Noe Music Artistic Co-Directors Meena Bhasin and Owen Dalby.

Bhasin (viola) and Dalby (violin) will also help reprise Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals*, at a Noe Music Kids concert on Saturday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. Bringing the music and animals to life will be virtuoso pianist Allegra Chapman—like Aizawa, she’ll be playing the series’ magnificent new Steinway grand piano—and Fantastical bassist and educator Daniel Fabricant.

The Sunday Mainstage concert offers reserved seating in the first few rows for \$60, general tickets for \$45, and student tickets for \$15.

Tickets at Noe Music Kids on March 8 are \$15 for ages 3 and up. Kids 2 and under are free. You can reserve tickets and get more details at the Noe Music website, noemusic.org.

—Sally Smith



The New York-based Horszowski Trio, comprised of Jesse Mills (violin), Rieko Aizawa (piano), and Ole Akahoshi (cello), performs Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m., at Noe Music at the Noe Valley Ministry.
Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Hearing on Slow Sanchez

The Sanchez Next-Gen Slow Street Project will hold a public hearing Friday, March 7, at 10 a.m. on plans for “more permanent, attractive, and easier-to-maintain elements at intersections, including concrete bulb islands at some block entries, painted safety zones, and daylighting” on Sanchez.

To see the changes, go to Slow Sanchez Project Updates at SFMTA.com. To send comments, email SlowStreets@SFMTA.com or join the hearing itself by calling 415-523-2709 and using the conference ID 836 632 456#.

Some Omnivores’ Dilemmas

March brings a fresh batch of author visits to Omnivore Books on Food at 3885A Cesar Chavez at Church Street. You can take a culinary ride down the California coast on Tuesday, March 11, when authors Scott Clark, Betsy Andrews, and Cheyenne Ellis stop by to discuss their adventures in *Coastal: 130 Recipes from a California Road Trip*.

Then on Thursday, March 20, Zareen and Umair Khan, founders of Zareen’s Restaurant in Mountain View (and two other Bay Area locations), will be sharing their recipe secrets in *Zareen’s Pakistani Kitchen*.

New Zealand-born Ben Shewry will be the star guest on Tuesday, March 25, revealing his *Uses for Obsession: A (Chef’s) Memoir*, described as a manifesto on “creative freedom in the kitchen, food journalism, sexism in hospitality, the fraud of the farm-to-table sustainability ethos, the cult of the chef, and the legendary Family Bolognese,” as well as a blueprint for the (takeout?) restaurant and workplace of the future.

All three events start at 6:30 p.m. The shop is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Hey, did you know—Omnivore also has a cookbook club, where you can receive by mail four new cookbooks a year, one for each season. To find out details, go to omnivorebooks.myshopify.com.

—Sally Smith

A Slow Sanchez Greenway

The group Friends of Slow Sanchez is busting out with spring joy as it partners with Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) to create a street full of sidewalk gardens on Sanchez Street between 23rd and 30th streets.

The Slow Sanchez Greenway, as it is called, may not only beautify a strolling space. It hopes to mitigate the effects of torrential rains in winter. Every concrete square removed means rainfall goes into the ground and not down the street into a storm drain.

FUF has been planting street trees since 1981. Its sidewalk garden program brings residents together with a willing partner, in this case Friends of Slow Sanchez, to help us navigate the city process to request a sidewalk garden or even a street tree for the modest cost of a permit. The friendsoftheurbanforest.org website has all the info and a handy Request a Sidewalk Garden form to fill out.

Maybe you don’t live on Sanchez Street but tree planting and garden maintenance is your idea of a happy afternoon. Contact Friends of Slow Sanchez (info@slowsanchez.com) and learn how you can get your hands dirty or even make a financial contribution to the effort. More trees means better air and a lovely walk down a slow street.

—Kit Cameron

Go Down the Garden Path

Noe Valley Garden Tour progenitors Peggy Cling and Linda Lockyer, of the group Friends of Noe Valley, want to make sure you know that this year’s tour is Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Now in its 19th year, the event will feature eight to 10 private gardens for all to explore.

Says Cling, “We are still looking for gardens. Any type of garden is acceptable—native plants, bee- or butterfly-friendly, shade gardens, vegetable gardens, rose gardens, you name it. Gardens can be homeowner or professionally maintained.”

If you have a garden (or know someone who does) and would like to sched-



The Noe Valley Night Markets, held on the last Tuesday of the month, have become a refreshing way to reap the benefits of the neighborhood. Think spicy tacos and scoops of gelato, and music and dance to quicken our hearts.
Photo by Art Bodner

Tuesday Night Markets Drawing Vendors and Visitors

Need a way to celebrate spring? Try this. On the last Tuesday of the month—March 25 in this case—head out to the Noe Valley Town Square between 4 and 7 p.m. for the Noe Valley Night Market. Once there, you can nosh on some bites of food, sip a glass of wine, do some shopping, and relax while you listen to live music.

You can pick up dinner at booths from restaurants Novy, Todo el Dia, and Casa Mexicana; get snacks and dessert from Trad Bone Broth, La Copa Loca, and Le Carousel Patisserie; and enjoy potables from Valley Tavern. Plant store Urban Scout will give you a green fix, and jeweler Michela Rossi will help decorate yourself or someone you love. For fine art, check out Glen Park Atelier or watercolorist Lena Lee. And Olive This Olive That will help you elevate your taste buds with tastings.

The market has been a success right from the start. Its inaugural Tuesday was in October of last year.

“We got a ton of great feedback,” said Night Market co-organizer Kathryn Gianaras, who is also co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals Association. “The neighborhood loved it! We maxed out January with 13 vendors—12 in the Town Square and a cocktail van sponsored by Mr. Digby’s parked out front.”

Cocktails? Yes, Gianaras and her team pulled out all the stops to make the party happen. “First, we [got] a special permit from Rec and Park, as well as an amplified sound permit,” said Gianaras. Then there was “an ABC liquor permit, approval from the Health Department for food,” and finally, “a plan for cleanup with Recology and approval from the Police Department.”

The market tents so far have been representing Noe Valley restaurants and businesses. But designers and artisans like Pacific Coast Crafts, Colors4Love, MH Jewels Designs, and Sam’s Gourmet Jams have complemented the lineup.

“We have about 50/50 food and retail,” said Gianaras. “I want to give Noe Valley businesses the advantage, but we want a mix of vendors.”

People from beyond the neighborhood have taken notice. “An artist reached out to me. She’s a handmade jeweler in Dogpatch. Each market has something unique,” Gianaras adds. “It’s getting better and better. It’s awesome to be well known with something for everyone.”

And that includes kids. MC vocalist Lambert Moss, ably assisted by musician Heikki Gunner, cranks up tunes and makes sure the kids are dancing along with their parents. “He is absolutely fabulous,” says Gianaras. “He sings. He dances. He comes up with silly contests and cute ways to give away prizes,” donated by 24th Street merchants. She is glad to note that Moss will be back for several more markets.

The food, retail, and good times are surely great for the neighborhood. But what do the businesses, who have to cart their kitchens to the square, get out of it? (The square is at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg.)

“For store owners it’s an opportunity to have face time with the community,” said Gianaras. “It’s a chance for the community to get to know the store. You give the customers a little taste [at the night market], and now they want to go back to the store.”

The Noe Valley Merchants Association’s website (noemerchants.com) has a page with a cute QR code to scan for more info. The Noe Valley Night Market is also sponsored by the Civic Joy Fund, a branch of the San Francisco-based nonprofit the Civic Space Foundation.

—Kit Cameron

ule a garden preview for possible inclusion in the tour, “send an email ASAP” to LindaLockyer3@gmail.com.

The tour organizers are also looking for garden greeters, volunteers who can do a two-hour shift at one of the gardens in exchange for a free ticket to the tour (which last year was \$40).

Again, those interested should contact Lockyer at LindaLockyer3@gmail.com.

“Proceeds from the Noe Valley Garden Tour go back into the community to support neighborhood beautification projects,” notes Cling.

—Sally Smith



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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Noe Valley Voice, introducing new shops and restaurants in the neighborhood. This month, we spotlight a family-run lunch spot on Church Street.

TAFFI'S CAFE
1748 Church St. at Day Street
(415) 282-4328
<https://www.instagram.com/taffiscafe/>

Residents and merchants are welcoming a new option for breakfast, lunch, and weekend brunch in Upper Noe: Taffi's Cafe. The restaurant soft-opened in early December at 1748 Church St. at Day Street, in the storefront occupied for 18 years by the eatery Toast.

Taffi's is the first sit-down restaurant for owners James and Taffi Zarur, who live in Daly City.

"When this property came by, we felt we could do it, especially at a corner location that has been serving breakfast for over 40, 50 years," said James Zarur.

The menu will feature unique dishes inspired by the Zarurs' familial roots, with ingredients sourced from a host of local food purveyors. The couple have worked as professional cooks at various breakfast and lunch spots in the Bay Area, and they currently own a sandwich deli in a warehouse off Bayshore Boulevard.

They named their new restaurant after Taffi because of the uniqueness of her first name.

"When you think about it, how many people do you know named Taffi? Probably none," said James "Jimmy" Zarur.

As for having an eponymously named eatery, "the pressure is on," said Taffi Zarur.

"I am pretty modest about it, but it is really sweet of my husband to name a restaurant after me," she said.

Taffi Zarur grew up in Fresno in a family of mixed Scottish, Irish, and Mexican ancestry. Her Central American roots are reflected on the menu by dishes like chilaquiles—tortilla chips tossed in salsa verde with spicy chorizo, avocado, crema cotija, cilantro, and two eggs any style. The cafe's Huevos Ahogados, or "drowned eggs," features poached eggs in a spicy tomato broth with cotija cheese, pickled jalapeño, cilantro, and black beans.

"I grew up with a lot of spicy food. For me, I love how it gives you that

sweat, but not too hot. It is a good hot," said Taffi Zarur, noting the dish was perfect for cold, foggy mornings. "I am also a pescatarian, so it allows me to eat something hearty and not feel like a rabbit."

One of her favorite dishes is roasted garnet yam, a play on a hash entrée. It comes with two eggs any style, baby kale, broccoli, onion, bell pepper, shaved parmesan, and chili.

James Zarur, a native San Franciscan, has a few nods on the menu to his family's Middle Eastern roots, such as a baklava-inspired topping for pancakes or waffles, made with honey syrup, walnuts, and pistachios. A lighter option he says is the Greek yogurt with homemade granola, seasonal nuts, and a honey drizzle.

The pancakes or waffles, made from a family friend's buttermilk batter recipe, come in stacks of three with a choice of toppings. "Campfire marshmallow" comes with Ghirardelli chocolate sauce and crumbled graham crackers, or you can celebrate with "birthday cake," with rainbow sprinkles, vanilla icing, and whipped cream.

A hit with diners is the fried chicken and waffles, a dish large enough for two people to share. It's served with country gravy for the chicken and maple syrup for the waffles.

"I am not saying it is the best or anything, but I think it is pretty good. I know it is satisfying," said James Zarur.

One of the most popular dishes is the omelet made with maitake and cremini mushrooms, baby spinach, goat cheese, tarragon, and chives. The woodsy maitakes, which grow on the base of oak and maple trees, aren't often served in such a way, noted James.

"I just didn't want to do something that you would find anywhere else," he said.

In another twist, the cafe's eggs benedict is served on sliced ciabatta bread from Panorama Baking Company and accompanied by a steak knife for easier slicing. Diners can opt for either black forest ham, Hobbs applewood bacon with avocado and tomato, or smoked salmon with chive, dill, and capers. "It looks nice with a long boat-looking piece of bread," noted James Zarur. "There is more bread to soak up your eggs and Hollandaise with."

Their breakfast potatoes have been getting raves. First baked in the oven and seasoned with paprika, oregano, salt, and pepper, the taters are pulled apart, then deep-fried. "They are very rustic looking," noted the chefs.

Popular lunch items are the B.L.T.A., a classic bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich made with avocado; the Club, with ham, bacon, and cheddar cheese; and the Reuben on marble rye. The



James and Taffi Zarur and their 2-year-old son, Rio, invite you to visit their new Taffi's Cafe, which now sits where Toast Eatery used to be. Photo by Art Bodner

Zarurs buy the meat for the sandwiches from Roberts Corned Meats, founded in the city in 1910.

Diners also have taken notice of the eatery's ceramic mugs, made by Florida-based company Natural Life. With floral designs or smiling faces, the dishware is inscribed with messages like, "Good friends are like mushrooms...the best ones are hard to find," and "Today is a good day to have a good day." Patrons can purchase them for \$18.

"They really kind of make people happy," said James Zarur.

The cafe's entrees range in price from \$14 to \$24 and come in sizeable portions. He promises customers will not walk away hungry.

"We definitely want to give you your money's worth. We want people to see our place as a value," James Zarur said.

He and Taffi first met working at an Oakland restaurant in 2011 and kept in touch after James left to find work elsewhere. Now married for nine years, they have three sons, Oliver, 7, Zaiden, 5, and Rio, 2.

Back in 2020, with Taffi a "domestic engineer" raising the boys at home, James lost his job cooking for a tech company when it was forced to close its offices due to the Covid pandemic. It led him that November to buy his cousin Hanna Sahourieh's breakfast and lunch spot The Deli Lama, at 150 Toland St. near San Francisco's pro-

duce market. Open weekdays from 5:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., the deli allows James to help out at Taffi's in the afternoon and on weekends.

Through the grapevine of fellow restaurateurs, the couple had learned about the outer Church Street restaurant space. They decided to take a chance on leasing it.

"We kind of figured we could put a menu together and do something that the neighborhood would enjoy," said James. "But we also have to get people from outside of the neighborhood, too."

The interior still has the counter seating, but a new living plant wall greets diners on the left near the tables. The cafe has a total seating capacity of 35 people, including a trio of dog-friendly outdoor tables.

The Zarurs expect to have a limited liquor license by mid-March and will be adding local beers, a few red and white wines, and mimosas to the menu. They're still deciding on whether to offer bloody marys, which would be made with the rice-based spirit soju, since they won't have a full bar.

With Taffi's already drawing repeat customers, they are feeling embraced by the community.

"We have regulars and familiar faces coming in and giving us warm welcomes," said James.

Taffi's Cafe is open daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



Taffi's Cafe has placed three tables outside at its busy corner at Church and Day streets, so customers can enjoy the sunny weather or bring their canine friends. Photo by Art Bodner



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The Basics for Your Earthquake Kit

Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

Here are some tips on putting together a quake kit or “go bag,” so you’ll be prepared to face the next Big One, severe weather event, fire or other health emergency. It’s best to plan so you can manage for a week with no electricity or plumbing.

Meanwhile, you might want to join San Francisco’s Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). The next training is scheduled for March 17–19 at SF State University’s Annex I.

You can sign up at the SF-fire.org/nert website. For information, call the SFFD at 415-970-2022 or 2024 (NERT class hotline).



Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days, such as canned or dried soups, beans, juice.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove, utensils, matches, can opener, foil, plastic wrap, garbage bags.



Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio, batteries, rope, knife, scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench to shut off utilities.



Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, pencil and paper, i.d. cards, insurance info, maps.

Hygiene: Waterless soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, sanitary supplies.



Special items for children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, medications, KN95 masks, extra pair of glasses.



Pet Supplies, such as food, water, leash, medications, and carrier.

Checklist for the ‘Go Bag’

It never hurts to have a “go bag” at home or work or in your car.

- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Flashlight, whistle
- ☐ Glasses
- ☐ Crank or battery radio
- ☐ Food and water
- ☐ Cash (\$100 in small bills)
- ☐ Basic first-aid, medications
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Toilet paper, hand sanitizer
- ☐ Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- ☐ Copy of driver’s license
- ☐ Paper, pencil, family or pet photos, important documents

UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER

Put a Spring in Your Step

Spring Registration for city parks is set to begin March 1. **Spring Session** classes start March 24. Sign up asap at sfrecpark.org/register.

Upper Noe Recreation Center is welcoming two new activities: **Tot Futsal** on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m., and **Shred & Butter** for adults on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. That one will be the rec center’s first-ever adult skateboarding class. **Girls League Volleyball** returns on Friday afternoons for team practice, and the center will host league games on Saturday afternoons. Spectators are welcome. **Open Gym** will again be available on Saturday mornings.

Meanwhile, Winter Session continues through March 8. The rec center interi- or will then be shut down from March 10 through 17 for floor maintenance.

Note: Upper Noe is not hosting **day camp** this year, but activities are planned nearby. Camp registration opens March 10 for scholarship recipients. General registration opens March 15. See sfrecpark.org/register or call 628-652-2900.

Many classes and activities at Upper Noe are drop-in. Call the office at 415-970-8061 or visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com for more information.

Upper Noe Spring Schedule (March 24 to May 31, 2025)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues. to Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Outside activities only on Sundays and Mondays. Park grounds open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth) FREE
5 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (18+) FREE
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (18+)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

Wednesday

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult) FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+)
3 to 6 p.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
2 to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth) FREE
5 to 7:30 p.m. Advanced Drop-In Volleyball (18+)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Beginning (18+)
7 to 8 p.m. Tennis Beginning (18+)

Thursday

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (18+) FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth) FREE
4 to 5 p.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3–5)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages

9–10)

5 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (18+) FREE
6 to 7 p.m. Adult Shred N’ Butter
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (18+)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 to 11 a.m. Tot Futsal
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open Gym (adult) FREE
3 to 6 p.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Girls Volleyball Team Practice (8–10)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages 9–10)
5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Girls Volleyball Team Practice (11–14)
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages 9–11)
6:15 to 8 p.m. Girls Teen Drop-in Volleyball (11–16)

Saturday

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open Gym (all ages)
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba/Play Pass \$
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Place to Play (Free Play)
1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Girls League Volleyball



Break Time in Noe.

Photo by Jack Tipple

NOE VALLEY PET CO.



SPECIAL EVENT!

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Saturday, March 28, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

COST: \$20 per 20-min. session

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MORE FOOD TO EAT


Snack-Sized Garbanzo Curry Pie at Ap's Café

Sometimes you need a full meal, and sometimes all you're looking for is a snack to tide you over until a late dinner reservation (like that 8 p.m. time slot your friend picked as if we lived in New York City). Enter the **Garbanzo Curry Pie at Ap's Café** (\$5.50 at 4108 24th St.): a delightful personal-sized pie that's just a few inches in diameter but packed with a satisfying amount of heartiness and flavor. The Garbanzo Curry Pie has a nice touch of spice and kick that keeps you coming back for more. It's especially well suited for consumption during colder rainier months, and can be warmed up for you onsite in no time. If garbanzo beans aren't your thing, don't worry—Ap's menu is full of pie, empanada, and soup choices that all come in manageable sizes and allow you to eat just the right amount. I also enjoyed the **Chicken Spinach Empanada** (\$5.25), which had delicious contents and a thinner casing. Another major benefit was the price. Sitting on the bench outside Ap's, I struck up a conversation with a longtime Noe Valley resident about the rising cost of living here. The irony? For the first time in a while, I felt like I was getting a deal. The pies and empanadas at Ap's offer a rare trifecta of heartiness, convenience, and affordability. —Matt Fisher, on the beat for More Food to Eat


Have a suggestion for a dish to try in Noe Valley? Send an email to MoreFoodtoEatNoeValley@gmail.com.



The Garbanzo Curry Pie (left) and Chicken Spinach Empanada are snacks you can scarf down quickly, so Ollie the dog won't get too jealous. Photos by Matthew Fisher



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Community Outreach Public Notice
Prepared by The Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 2.81



San Francisco Board of Supervisors Board or Commission Vacancies: Participate on a Board or Commission!

The Assessment Appeals Board (AAB):

The AAB resolves legal and value assessment issues between the Assessor's office and property owners. Hearings are quasi-judicial, conducted in a manner similar to a court setting, with evidence and testimony presented by the parties. The Board then evaluates the evidence and testimony and renders its decision. To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For a full list of current or upcoming Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, please visit <https://sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces>. Would you like to work for the City? Visit the website <https://careers.sf.gov/> and find a job that's right for you!

Department Announcements

The Office of Transgender Initiatives:

Trans Day of Visibility Celebration: March 30, 2025 | 6 PM. Green Room SF | 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco. Join us for San Francisco's Trans Day of Visibility Celebration! Amidst the increasing attacks on the trans community, it's important that we come together in joy, strength, and resistance. Join us for an evening of powerful performances and a celebration of trans resilience. Enjoy free food and incredible local talent with trans community members and allies. Plus, visit our resource fair to get support with gender and name changes, immigration assistance, information on gender-affirming care, and more!

Child Support Services:

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. We are available to assist you in person or by phone. Virtual services are also available. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 for more information. Enroll online or schedule an appointment at sf.gov/dcss to learn how we can help you.

City Attorney Office:

The San Francisco City Attorney's Office is committed to protecting consumers and members of the public. We investigate and prosecute businesses that deceive or defraud consumers, as well as property owners that maintain properties in substandard conditions or violate housing laws. Members of the public who wish to report a consumer complaint should contact the Office through its hotline at (415) 554-3977 or its web portal at <https://www.sfcityattorney.org/report-a-complaint/>. Our office will review the information you provide and may seek additional information from you. Please note, however, that we are not authorized to represent you as your lawyer or provide you with legal advice. Any actions we take are on behalf of the community as a whole.

Elections: Make Your Voice Count – The SF Department of Elections Encourages You to Register to Vote!

Your vote shapes your community—register today and be ready for the next election! Register online at registertovote.ca.gov or call us at (415) 554-4375 to request a paper voter registration form by mail. We're always looking for dedicated community members to help shape the future of elections in San Francisco. Learn more about joining one of our advisory committees at selections.gov/committees.

Police:

Are you looking for an exciting lifestyle or a change in scenery? Those can be achieved right here with the San Francisco Police Department. If you possess strong integrity, excellent communication skills, and great critical thinking skills, this is the right career for you! The City of San Francisco is truly inspiring. There are so many opportunities to make a difference in the community. Now is the best time to join our team and Be the Change! Be the force our community needs and make a positive difference in our citizens' lives. Starting Salary Range: \$115,778 - \$164,164, APPLY TODAY @ [JOINSFPD.COM](https://joinsfpd.com) / CHECK US OUT ON FB, IG, and X @joinsfpd

Law Library: Need Legal Information? We're Here to Help!

Have legal questions? The San Francisco Law Library is your free, public resource for expert legal guidance. Our knowledgeable reference librarians are available in person, by phone, or via email to connect you with essential legal resources—whether it's understanding evictions, drafting a will, or representing yourself in court. Explore our extensive print and electronic legal materials, use public computers for research, or access our copier, scanner, and printer. We also offer free legal programs and conference rooms for legal use. We're open Monday–Friday, 9 AM–5 PM, and our services are completely free to the public. Call us at 415-554-1797, Email sfil.reference@sfgov.org. Visit us today—because access to justice starts with access to information!

Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights (MOVVR):


Phone: 628.652.1175, Email: info.ovvr@sfgov, Website (work in progress): www.sf.gov/MOVR. The Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights provides free, confidential consultations on crime victims' legal rights, warm referrals to support services, direct advocacy on behalf of survivors, and legislative/policy solutions to strengthen victim services and violence prevention. Once we receive a contact from you, we will follow up with you within two business days. If you are in immediate danger, please don't wait: call 911.

Housing Authority:

The Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco (Authority) is actively seeking new property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The program provides housing assistance to eligible individuals and families by paying a portion of their rent to private property owners. **Key benefits:** 1. Guaranteed Monthly Rent: Property owners can rely on timely direct deposit rental payments from the Authority. 2. Expanded Tenant Pool: Property owners gain access to a broader pool of prospective tenants. 3. Community Impact: Partnering with the Authority supports affordable housing and the community. We are interested in expanding housing opportunities in San Francisco zip codes 94129, 94123, 94105, 94127, 94114, 94131, 94116, 94118, 94158, 94122, 94107, 94117, 94112, 94121, 94110 and immediate suburban areas. For more information, please contact us at customer@sfha.org or learn more at www.sfha.org.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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March 1-24: Sign up for SPRING CLASSES in myriad sports and activities (starting March 24) at the Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day. 970-8061; sfrecpark.org/register

March 1-29: The FARMERS MARKET has fresh produce, food, and music Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 1-29: Stroll or jog and see the sights with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez 10 am.

March 2: It's DONOR Appreciation Day at Noe Valley Books, 3957 24th. Come celebrate the saviors. Note also: "You can bring in used books to the store again. 590-2961

March 2, 16 & 30: FOLK YOGA offers free all-level classes; bring water and a mat. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 10, 17 & 31: Charlie Varon hosts a STORYTELLING and writing salon. Mon., 10 am, 1021 Sanchez. CharlieVaron@gmail.com

March 4-April 1: Enjoy gentle TAI CHI weekdays at 9 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Info.: Judy Goldheft, 658-0710

March 4 & April 1: Join the ACTION-SF group, strategizing 6 to 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey; action-sf.com

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: Family STORY-TIMES are Thursdays, 10:15 am and 11 am. Space is limited to 20 kids at each. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: Mutiny Radio hosts free OPEN MIC comedy at The BAR on Dolores, Thursdays, 8 pm. 1600 Dolores.

March 7: The Sanchez Next-Gen SLOW STREET Project holds a virtual public hearing at 10 am. To comment, email SlowStreets@sfmta.com, or sfmta.com

March 7 & April 4: The Castro ART WALK features local artists on first Fridays. 5-8 pm. For a map: castroartwalk.com

March 7-May 9: The Noe Valley Library offers a 10-week WORKSHOP, "Aging Mastery," on Fridays. 1-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 8: Pianist Allegra Chapman and Daniel Fabricant perform Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals" at NOE MUSIC

C A L E N D A R

KIDS. 10:30-11:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

March 8: SF NEON leads a Mission-Roxie walking tour. 6:15-7:45 pm. Meet in front of the New Mission Alamo Drafthouse, 2330 Mission. sfneon.org

March 8-April 13: The 38th SOLO MUJERES group show "Derechos Rights" features the work of Lorraine García-Nakata. Reception March 8, 6-8 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 796-6422; missionculturalcenter.org

March 9 & 23: YOGA FLOW offers free classes; bring water and a mat. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 9 & 23: ACOUSTIC SUNDAY at the Noe Valley Town Square features, on March 9, Out-of-Town Couple, 1-2 pm, and Luke Schwartz, 2-3 pm. On March 23, young vocalists from the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts sing from 1-2 pm, followed by Nathaniel Vincent and Jackson Moran performing jazz standards from 2-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

March 9 & April 6: City Guides offers WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley, led by Cathy and Paul Staley, starting at 451 Jersey, at 2 pm. Registration required: 375-0468 (sfcityguides.org).

March 11: It's LEGO and Board Game Night at the Noe Valley Library. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 11: Betsy Andrews and Scott Clark, authors of *Costal: 130 Recipes From a California Road Trip*, and the book's photographer, Cheyenne Ellis, appear at 6:30 pm at OMNIVORE BOOKS. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

March 11-22: The Randall Museum displays SF Middle School SCIENCE FAIR projects. 10 am-5 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9602; randallmuseum.org

March 12: The Noe Valley Democratic Club holds a MEMBERS MEETING and Social, 6-7:30 pm, at Noe Valley Tavern, 4054 24th. noevalleydemocrats.org

March 13: Together SF offers a visual history and explanation of the workings of LOCAL GOVERNMENT. 5:30-7 pm. Manny's, 3092 16th. togetherSF.org

March 15: Listen to romantic classical MUSIC, including Beethoven, Debussy, and Chopin, played by pianist ALEX DAVIS, 2 to 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

March 15: SF COMEDY Underground stages standup at "Noe Valley Farms" on third Saturdays. 7: 45-9: 30 pm. 1828 Castro. Eventbrite; bestmedicinethebay@gmail.com

March 16: Volunteers for the monthly Noe Valley CLEANUP DAY meet at the Town Square to pick up supplies. 10 am to noon. 3861 24th. togetherSF.org

March 16: MEDITATIVE Drawing with Kenneth Tan focuses on drawing banigs, Filipino woven mats. 2-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

March 16: The Horszowski Trio and Friends perform a CONCERT at NOE MUSIC. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

March 18: Super SOCCER STARS gives a free demo at the Noe Valley Ministry to publicize spring classes. 3 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Soccerstars.com/ca/sanfrancisco

March 19: The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB reads *Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 20: OMNIVORE Books hosts Zareen and Umair Khan, authors of *Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen*. 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

March 21: The CASTRO Night Market features LGBTQ+ artists and live entertainment. 5-9 pm. 18th St. at Castro.

March 23: Bring a memory to share at a celebration of the life of RICHARD JUHL, the "Mayor of the 900 block of Sanchez Street," at the unveiling of a mosaic in front of 953 Sanchez at 11 am. 641-1309.

March 23: The SF Symphony performs a CHAMBER CONCERT at the Noe Valley Library. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707

March 23: Kung Pao KOSHER COMEDY's new series, "Resistance Comedy," features DhayaLakshminarayanan, Orion Levine, Carla Clayy, Bob McIntyre, and Lisa Geduldig. 7 pm. Eclectic Box SF, 446 Valencia. 956-9888; koshercomedy.com

March 24: EARPLAY plays *Rhapsody and Communion* and other works for violin, cello, piano. 6:45-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Earplay.thundertix.com

March 25: The Noe Valley NIGHT MARKET offers local vendors, food, and entertainment 4 to 7 pm, on last Tuesdays. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. See Noemerchants.com

March 25: OMNIVORE Books welcomes Ben Shewry, author of *Uses for Obsession: A Chef's Memoir*. 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

March 25: The Noe Valley Library hosts PAJAMA STORYTIME. 6:30 pm; reservations required. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

March 26: A PAINTING & POETRY workshop features readings from Morgan Harper Nichols' *All Along You Were Blooming*. 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

March 28-30: AfroSolo Theatre Company presents the 31st AfroSolo ARTS FESTIVAL, "Let Freedom Ring." Fri. and Sat. 7 pm; Sun. 3 pm. Potrero Stage, 1695 18th St. 771-2376; afrosolo.org

March 29: The Noe Valley Library celebrates WOMEN'S History month with a discussion of foods invented by women, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

March 30: Music on the Hill presents a CONCERT by Ava (Soifer) & Friends. 7:30 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive. 285-9540 x3; staidansf.org

NO FOOLING:

The next Voice Calendar will be for the April 2025 issue. The deadline for calendar items is March 20. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Thanks.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

In *Pavlo Gets the Grumps*, a picture book by Ukrainian author Natalia Shaloshvili, a little creature learns how to cheer up. Ages 3-7.

A puppy that is lost in the big city meets a man who also has lost his home in *My Friend Andy* by Emma Chinnery. Ages 4-8.

Freedom Braids, by Monique Duncan with illustrations by Oboh Moses, was inspired by the true story of enslaved African women braiding maps in their hair that were guides to freedom. Ages 5-9.

In Katryn Bury's *We Are Not Alone*, a popular student and a cancer patient bond over an interest in UFOs. Ages 8-12.

Charley hopes to become the first professional female pitcher, in *Black Star*, Kwame Alexander's second book in the "Door of No Return" trilogy. Ages 10 and up.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Children ages 3 to 6 will enjoy *Family and Feelings: Learn How to Deal With Your Feelings!* by Helena Harastova, with illustrations by Katia Gaigalova.

Robots: Explore the World of Robotics and AI is a STEM book by Carnegie Melon University professor Henny Admoni, with illustrations by Amy Grimes. Ages 8-10.

Jim Kristofic describes the daily lives of Cherokee, Apache, Navajo, and Nez Perce people, in DK Publishing's *Reservation Life Today*. Ages 8-10.

Tessa Creative Art design studio gives step-by-step instructions in *Drawing Chibi Pets: Learn to Draw Kawaii Companions From Dogs, Cats, and Hamsters to Lizards and Fish!* Ages 9 and up.

Jason Viola and History Comics explain *The Prohibition Era: America's War on Alcohol*, with art by Roger Langridge. Ages 9-13.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

A child's mother tells her the story of a goddess before she starts her first day at a new school, in *Oshún and Me: A Story of Love and Braids* by Adiba Nelson, illustrated by Alleanna Harris. Ages 3-6.

In *Not a Smiley Guy*, a picture book by Polly Horvath with illustrations by Boris Kulikov, grown-ups learn to stop trying to change Ernest. Ages 4-6.

No Purchase Necessary by Maria Marianayagam is a coming-of-age novel about a Sri Lankan boy who finds a prize in a stolen candy bar. Ages 8-12.

Mythical creatures abound in Cindy Lin's *Beasts of the Uncanny Wild*, a follow-up to *Creatures of the In Between*. Ages 8-12.

Rachel Sarah spotlights climate leaders under age 25 in *Girl Warriors: How 25 Young Activists Are Saving the Earth*. Ages 9 and up.

TEEN FICTION

A Taiwanese American girl wants to find her birth mother in *First Love Language* by Stefany Valentine. Ages 12-17.

While dreaming of being a pastry chef, Ana Maria falls in love with a boy working in a rival establishment, in *Guava and Grudges* by Alexis Castellanos. Ages 12-17.

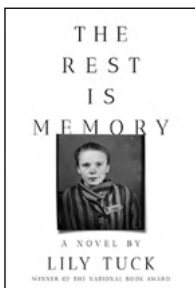
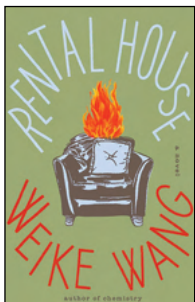
In *The Unfinished* by Cheryl Isaacs, people begin to go missing when a pond of black water appears in their town. Ages 13-17.

In *Just Until* by Joseph Moldover, a 17-year-old must decide whether to get her nephews out of foster care. Ages 14-17.

In Brianna Peppins' debut novel *Briarcliff*

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Reading Your Mind



Gazing into the crystal ball, we see in your future some interesting new books at the Noe Valley Library, books that might soon end up on your nightstand.

Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis, Children's Librarian Madeline Felder, Youth Librarian Cristal Fiel, and Branch Manager Mary Fobbs-Guillory of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library have shared dozens of titles among the new arrivals at the branch. (*Voice* bookworm Karol Barske has written the book descriptions.)

To put items on hold, tap dance over to SFPL.org or get the mobile app at <https://sfpl.org/services/mobile-resources/library-catalog-mobile-apps/>.

Or visit a Carnegie building filled with shelves at the Noe Valley branch, 451 Jersey St. If you need to speak with the library, call 415-355-5707.

—Sally Smith, editor/co-publisher, Noe Valley Voice



Prep: Sophomore Year, a student worries about violence in her big sister's relationship. Ages 14-18.

ADULT FICTION

Wang Weike's *Rental House* centers on a marriage that changes over the course of two family vacations.

The Rest Is Memory, by Lily Tuck, is about a small-town Polish teen who was sent to her death in Auschwitz in 1942.

In *Woo Woo* by Ella Baxter, a conceptual artist faces her demons, accompanied by puppets and a ghost.

The 11 stories included in *The World With Its Mouth Open* by Zahid Rafiq follow the lives of people in war-torn Kashmir.

ADULT NONFICTION

Didion & Babitz by Lili Anolik bares the intersecting lives of two chroniclers of California life in the last century.

In *Linguaphile: A Life of Language Love*, Julie Sedivy analyzes how communications shape our lives through social bonds, meanings, and misunderstandings.

The late Alexei Navalny's memoir *Patriot*, written after his near-fatal poisoning in 2020, recounts his political career.

Poet Brandon Shimoda reflects on the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II in *The Afterlife Is Letting Go*.

ADULT EBOOKS

An elderly guest in a luxury Saharan hotel comes into conflict with a young boy in the psychological thriller *Havoc* by Christopher Bollen.

In *Sister Snake*, Amanda Lee Koe's reworking of a Chinese folktale, two sisters are bound by an ancient secret.

What Remains: The Collected Poems of Hannah Arendt contains the complete oeuvre of the 20th-century writer.

Alex Cuadros describes the downfall of the Cinta Larga tribe in *When We Sold God's Eye: Diamonds, Murder, and a Clash of Worlds in the Amazon*.

DVDS/BLU-RAY

Daruma, a 2023 drama made by Alexander Yellen, features Tobias Forrest as an embittered wheelchair user who finds a way to transport his 4-year-old daughter to her grandparents.

The Gutter, a 2024 comedy about bowling directed by Isaiah Lester and Yassir Lester, stars Tony Baker and George Basil.

I Like Movies, a 2022 coming-of-age comedy/drama directed by Chandler Levack, features Isaiah Lehtinen and Percy Hynes White.

Starring Jerry as Himself is a 2023 "docu-fiction" directed by Law Chen, about an immigrant dad recruited to be an undercover agent for the Chinese.

LIBRARY EVENTS

The Noe Valley Knitting Circle welcomes those who knit or crochet on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is yarn for beginners to practice on, but bring your own if you are working on a special project.

The **Super Soccer Stars** program offers coaching to children (with care-givers) on Monday, March 3, from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. for ages birth through 1 year old, and from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., for ages 2 to 3. Reservations required.

Ages 10 to 14 are invited to **Mode to Code**, a four-week course covering AI, coding, and websites, on Mondays, March 3, 10, 17 & 24, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes are on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., March 6, 13, 20 & 27. Space is limited; tickets available at the reference desk beginning at 10:30 a.m.

A 10-week **Aging Mastering** workshop for ages 55 and older meets on Fridays, March 7 through May 9, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Meet at the library for a **City Guides Walking Tour** exploring historic sites in Noe Valley, on Sunday, March 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Space is limited: registration required.

Get drop-in **Tech Help** from the library staff at the Noe Valley Library, on Monday, March 10, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Family LEGO and **Board Game Night** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

All ages are invited to a **Notebook-Making** workshop with simple supplies provided, on Wednesday, March 12, from 4 to 5 p.m. Space is limited: first come, first served.

Children and their families can celebrate Ramadan by making a **Crescent Moon Mobile**, on Saturday, March 15, from 2 to 3 p.m. Space is limited.

Meditative Drawing with Kenneth Tan focuses on drawing banigs (Filipino woven mats), on Sunday, March 16, from 3 to 4 p.m. Space is limited: first come, first served.

A workshop, **Fun with Ozobots**, teaches coding to control a smart robot, on Tuesday, March 18, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The Noe Valley Book Club covers *Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia on Wednesday, March 19, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley circulation desk for checkout.

The **Short Stack Book Club** discusses *Weather* by Jenny Offillon Friday, March 21, from 3 to 4 p.m. Copies are held at the circulation desk.

Kids and their families are invited to **Pajama Storytime**, on Tuesday, March 25, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Space is limited.

A **Painting and Poetry** workshop features readings from Morgan Harper Nichols' *All Along You Were Blooming*, Wednesday, March 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. Space is limited: first come, first served.

Celebrate **Women's History** month with a discussion of favorite foods invented by women (snacks will be served), on Wednesday, March 29, from 2:30 to 3:30 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. All library programs are available for drop-in unless reservations are required.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Hooking Up by Michael Blake

SWIM	ROARS	ISNT	
TIME	UKIAH	OWEN	
ALEC	NADIA	WITT	
BLACK	EYED	PEAS	
SINAI	SEA	SAN	
	SHAW	RABBI	
BOW	STRIKES	BACK	
OCHS	TILES	UNDO	
WHIP	PUPA	MEAL	KEN
IOTAS	ALSO		
EAT	ESE	CASTS	
	LISAS	SLASH	POT
SPIN	USURP	PAPA	
HAND	LAILA	ERIC	
EDGY	TYSON	NECK	

Taste the Love



Every Day
5:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
3966 24th Street

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun 1-5	Mon 11-6	Tues 10-8	Wed 12-8	Thurs 10-6	Fri 1-6	Sat 10-6
Mission Branch Library 1234 Valencia St., 355-2800						
Sun 1-5	Mon 10-6	Tues 10-8	Wed 10-8	Thurs 10-8	Fri 1-6	Sat 10-6
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun 1-5	Mon 10-6	Tues 10-6	Wed 12-8	Thurs 10-7	Fri 1-6	Sat 10-6
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616						
Sun 1-5	Mon 10-6	Tues 10-8	Wed 10-8	Thurs 10-6	Fri 1-6	Sat 10-6

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
Meetings: Usually First Tuesdays, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. March 4, 6-7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940; office@al-anonsf.org
Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street).
Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez St. (enter through Clipper Street side door and go up the stairs)

Castro Merchants

Contacts: Terry Asten Bennett, President;
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114
Email: info@CastroMerchants.com

Comerford Greenway

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

Diamond Heights Community Association

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

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Lili Wu, 647-0235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Assn.

Contact: Board@evna.org
Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114
Meetings: See website Events. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

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

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

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

Friends of Christopher Park

Contact: Brynna McNulty, 818-744-4230
Email: friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com
Website: FriendsofChristopherPark.org

Festival Friends of Glen Canyon Park

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

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

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

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

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

Friends of Slow Sanchez

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

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

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

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG)

Contact: David Emanuel
Email: info@fundogsf.org
Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association

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

Juri Commoners

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, MI7-6290
Email: dave@schweisguth.org
Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Call Dave. "Tidy up when you can."

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

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

Noe Neighborhood Council

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

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

Noe Valley Democratic Club

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

Noe Valley Farmers Market

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

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743
Meetings: Usually last Thursdays, Doggy Style, 3927 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
Email: minaken@gmail.com
noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks

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

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: ProgressNoeValley
Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert
Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

Upper Noe Merchants

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com;
https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Chris Faust
Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesdays. Confirm by email or check website.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com

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



Spring Skies.

Photo by Sally Smith

and now for the

RUMORS

behind the news

Saving Daylight

By Mazook

VERNAL HEIGHTS: The March equinox, aka the vernal equinox, marks the sun’s crossing above Earth’s equator, moving from south to north. Earth’s tilt on its axis at this time of year is what causes this northward shift of the sun’s path across our sky. This brings spring and summer to the Northern Hemisphere. At the same time, the March equinox marks the beginning of autumn, and a shift toward winter, in the Southern Hemisphere.

When does it happen? The sun crosses the celestial equator, which is a line directly above Earth’s equator, at 9:01 UTC, Coordinated Universal Time, on March 20, 2025. (That’s 2:01 a.m. PDT.) And remember, the time, it is a-changin’, when we adjust our clocks to spring forward on March 9, at 2 a.m.



SPILLING THE BEANS: Spring has already arrived this year at Bernie’s Coffee, 3966 24th St. In partnership with Noe Valley Books across the street (at 3957), the coffeeshop has been remodeled to feature shelves displaying used books for sale.

Noe Valley Books announced the partnership on its website last month, saying, “Together, we are launching The Annex, a shared space inside Bernie’s where book lovers can shop used books while enjoying their favorite brew.”

Bernie’s owner Bernie Melvin has been very busy since she and the bookstore unveiled the changes Feb. 15—and columnist Tony Bravo spread the news in a Feb. 22 story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

“It was fantastic,” Melvin said, “and it was one of the busiest days I have had in the 17 years I have owned my coffee shop. People from all over the city came, and many told me they read about us in the *Chronicle*.”

Melvin said she had been approached by Noe Valley Books owner Katerina Argyres a week or so earlier with the annex idea. “To my surprise, [Argyres] set up her laptop computer and showed me many pictures she had put together in a slideshow of her visions of their displays and asked me if I was interested,” said Melvin. “It took me about five seconds to gasp and say yes, when can we start!? That blew me away.”

Bernie’s and the bookstore will share in the profits from the used-book sales. Bravo’s story revealed some facts about Melvin’s struggles during Covid, such as having to pause indoor seating at Bernie’s throughout the pandemic.

Well, now the chairs are back, about a dozen, so people can sit and have coffee or peruse the literature in the new bookcases lining Bernie’s walls.

Of course, six or so people can still squeeze onto the benches outside. And the coffee and bakery goods are still available, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Eventually, the coffee shop may also become a place for authors’ talks. In the meantime, Noe Valley Books is asking friends and customers to continue to donate used books (to the store at 3957 24th). People donating 100 or more books should contact info@noevalley-books.com to schedule a drop-off.

By the way, Melvin is a huge fan of the San Francisco Giants, especially since she shares her last name with their manager (Bob Melvin). “Go Giants!” she says. Go, Bernie!



THE BAGEL AREA: The online blog of

Paolo Bicchieri on Eater.com alerted me Feb. 12 to the news that “Bones and Bagels, Noah Orloff’s bike-powered operation, will bring bagel dogs and sandwiches to Diamond Street.”

In an Outer Richmond garage, Orloff pedals a stationary bike to grind the wheat for his baking. Bicchieri writes, “Since then, his customer base has ballooned. Now all that baking treasure is finding its first forever home.”

Under the shorter name Bones Bagels, the new bakery will open its doors at 741 Diamond St. “Orloff will stop his deliveries around town, inviting customers to pick up at the new bakery,” Bicchieri advises us. “Moreover, his new bakery is going whole-hog on the bagels. That means no more loaves.”

He notes that the new place will offer Bones’ popular sourdough bagel menu—plain, salt, jalapeno, sesame, olive, and cinnamon raisin—and cookies and cinnamon rolls. But the bagel dogs, “literally a bagel wrapped around a spicy hot link,” will be the Noe Valley shop’s chief specialty. Coffee at the new bakery will come from Four Barrel Coffee in San Francisco.

The space at 741 Diamond was last occupied by a “ghost kitchen,” used by local restaurants to prepare and deliver food orders around town. Last year, the owners of the kitchen closed that location and vacated the premises allegedly with no notice to the landlord. They abandoned all the high-end fixtures and equipment. The landlord posted a “For Lease” sign right away.

According to Bicchieri, Orloff learned of the vacancy and told neighbors he was leasing the space, which is a turn-key step from the entrance.

We are told that Bones Bagels will open “in early summer 2025.”



FIREFLY SPEAKS: The folks at Firefly restaurant at 4288 24th St. sent out an email notice the last week of February that is truly Noe Valley community oriented and Noe Valley-savvy. I love it:

“Hey there! If you’re reading this, it means you’re one of the amazing people who’ve supported us—whether by stopping in for dinner, following us online, or just hanging around because you are curious why people say our staff is weird. And this?

“We are using this antiquated form of communication because we’re pretty sure we don’t want to keep pouring our energy into the billionaire-boosting, society-crushing social medias. But we’re in the business of making personal connections. And since no one calls us on the telephone machine anymore, and it might seem creepy if we called you out of the blue to let you know things like that meatloaf is back on the menu, we’re trying something old-school: talking to you directly right here and now (and in the future). If you haven’t visited us for a while, you may not know some things about us. One thing about us is that we are still here, as we have been since the late 1900s, through many thicks and thins.

“Another thing about us is that we have a beautiful new outdoor dining parklet around the corner, on Douglass Street, thanks in great part to the generous support of our community through our GoFundMe campaign. We have partnered with the incredible heating gurus at Focal, who have equipped our parklet with elegant electric heaters that offer personalized comfort. Which means it’s always pretty sweet out there regardless of SF’s famously fickle fog, but this week’s seemingly magical weather makes it an especially good time to visit.”

Call their telephone machine to make a reservation at 415-821-7652.



MAKE AMERICA NOE AGAIN: Lola Herrera’s charming boutique at 1250 Sanchez St. (corner of Clipper) has introduced a fresh collection of Noe Valley-branded merchandise. Herrera says she was so “inspired by the vibrant communi-

ty, the new line includes baseball caps, hoodies, onesies, and kids’ hoodies—designed to be simple, fun, and colorful, making them perfect for locals who love to represent their neighborhood.”

Herrera says she has “had an amazing response” to her new Noe brand of garb. I got a Noe hat, and my Noe hoodie is on order, since Lola was sold out.

“Customers are showing up from all over the city that I have never seen before, and that’s really exciting.”

In addition to wearable art, Lola’s Gallery continues to spotlight local artists, most recently:

- Linda Trunzo—watercolors of botanical subjects and plein air paintings from the local farmersmarket.
- Kate Marsh—exquisite live model work exploring the effects of light on the figure.
- Shiva Pakdel—an Iranian artist who digitally enhances photos of her homeland, creating striking visual narratives.
- Kim Pabilonia—a “blue series” of watercolor figures, capturing movement in dance as well as quiet, pensive portraits.
- Willa Owings—A longtime artist in the gallery, known for her intimate and expansive watercolors of Northern California.

Beyond curating local art and designing hand-painted garments, Herrera writes she has been exploring new artistic dimensions through a collaboration with her husband, Giovanni Herrera. The works combine Lola’s expressive ideas with Giovanni’s intricate machine-embroidered embellishments to create one-of-a-kind textile pieces.

Oh, and by the way, their wearable art will be featured in March at the Sausalito Center for the Arts, 750 Bridgeway.



AND THE WINNER IS: One Stop Party Shop, at 1600 Church St., had a fantastic run last month selling party items geared to the Academy Awards celebrations on March 2, according to store owner Mardie Vandervort. “Wow,” she exclaimed, “I haven’t been this busy on Oscars night in many years. There must have been a lot of house parties this year. Customers were coming in from all over the Bay Area.”

Vandervort said a lot of orders came in for balloons, and she was blowing them up all day, for two days before the ceremony was aired on TV. “We sold out all the banners [e.g., ‘lights, camera, action’] and sold out of all the red carpets we had on hand.”

I asked her what her favorite movie was last year. She responded: “I watched every one of the nominees for Best Picture and loved them all!”

She said now she has to focus on Easter, her next big event.



UPDATING THE UPDATES: Transportation officials in SF announced that warnings will continue to be issued for drivers who park at unmarked curbs near crosswalks in violation of the state’s new “daylighting” traffic safety laws.

Acting SFMTA director Julie Kirschbaum noted in mid-February that a plan that would have ticketed drivers parked within 20 feet of a crosswalk regardless of whether it was marked, which was to go into effect on March 1, had been dropped for now. She said the city had set a new goal to paint red curbs throughout the city within 18 months.

And updating Noe Valley Farmers Market news, I am told by Kua Herr of Herr Family Farm that March will be a great month for his vegetable crop, “and it will get better and better until summer.”

Why is that? Herr says, “The vegetables grow much larger as the days get longer and longer to the summer, because the sun is out longer during the daytime.”

Herr told me a story about a summer visit he made to some Alaska farms where the vegetables were absolutely huge. He said, “I understood quite clearly

why the crops were so large: the sun rises early and doesn’t set until sometime around midnight—that is a long, long day-time sun shining.” He told me that, as a farmer for many years, he should have known this fact “before my revelation.”

He also pointed out that we can’t get those huge fresh vegetables shipped down here to San Francisco because the logistics are too difficult and that by the time they would get here they’d no longer be fresh.



LASTLY BUT NOT LEASTLY: Kudos go out to the Glen Park Association newsletter for its Feb. 19 edition’s essay by Evelyn Rose, founder and director of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project. The piece covers the history of Rancho San Miguel, dating back to the 1860s, when the first lots were being sold.

Here’s an excerpt, where Rose lists various bits of presumed facts about our local turf:

“Which of the following statements do you accept as the truth?

About Fairmount Heights

“The Pioche & Robinson Subdivision of 1867 appears to be among the earliest curvilinear street plans in the United States, designed two years before the 1869 General Plan for Riverside, a suburb of Chicago. Previous efforts to lay out streets over hills in San Francisco and elsewhere simply extended existing grids regardless of steep slopes, resulting in street rights-of-way on Telegraph Hill and Russian Hill, for example, that were too steep for streets.” [Corbett Heights, San Francisco (Western Part of Eureka Valley) Historic Context Statement, San Francisco Planning Department, 2017]

About Pioche and Robinson

“F.L.A. Pioche and L.L. Robinson were business partners, but they were also personal partners. Unmarried and living together until Pioche’s untimely death, they were possibly a gay couple. That relationship, and their secrecy about it, possibly contributed to their obscurity in San Francisco history.” [Mae Silver in Silver M., *Rancho San Miguel, A San Francisco Neighborhood History*. Ord Street Press, 2001].”

About Glen Canyon Park

“I. In 1889 Adolph Sutro, who had owned a large portion of the former San Miguel Rancho land since 1880, sold much of what would become Glen Park to the Crocker Estate.” [*Historic Resources Evaluation, Glen Park Community Plan, San Francisco Planning Department, 2010*]....

“4. In response to the Google search query, ‘Who named San Francisco’s Glen Park?’: “San Francisco’s Glen Park is named after former Mayor George Christopher.” [*Google Generative AI, 2025*].”

Then Rose writes: “While some of the above statements have become the stuff of neighborhood legend, nearly all of them contain at least some level of misinformation.

“For example, Statement 4 under *Glen Canyon Park* is pure gibberish.”

Also, read Larry Beresford’s marvelous essay in the September 2001 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

He writes, “Noe’s landholding, called Rancho San Miguel, comprised one-sixth of present-day San Francisco—including Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, and many neighborhoods to the south and west. In 1846, California’s Mexican governor, Pio Pico, granted the land to Noe, who then sold it off in pieces starting in 1852.”

It’s my contention that F.L.A. Pioche and L.L. Robinson chose to live on the site of the homestead of José de Jesús Noé in Noe Valley, in an area near what is now Homestead Street. It was very fertile land with water coming down the hill from Twin Peaks (which is how Fountain Street got its name).



THAT’S ALL, FOLKS: Have a happy Easter. Ciao for now. ■



Lamisse Droubi has been selling real estate in San Francisco for 26 years, with over \$1.6 billion in total sales, and has navigated many complex market transitions. With appropriate pricing, presentation, and strategy, a successful outcome is possible. Whether you are buying or selling, having a seasoned partner to guide you through the process is imperative. Let Lamisse and her dedicated team support you in this significant transaction. As a native San Franciscan, raised in Noe Valley, her expertise, transparency, and market knowledge is unmatched.

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