

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2023

Reverie Cafe Closes

News of Reverie's closure did not come as a complete surprise to those who were aware of owner Roger Soudah's tenuous relationship with building owners Claro and Mercedes Samson.

Photo: Carole Glosenger



Still, when Roger announced that the beloved café would be shuttered on February 20, many were flooded with memories of encounters there over many years. On the other hand, and with characteristic generosity,

Roger hosted a party on the final Sunday to thank his many customers and friends. Roger graciously accepted hundreds of expressions of appreciation and commiseration.

CVIA president Carole Glosenger reported, "It was a bittersweet afternoon party to say goodbye to a business that has been with us for 21 years. A band was playing and hundreds of people including Supervisor Mandelman came to hug Roger and wish him well. The staff served hot links, chicken wings and



Photo: Joan Downey

Roger Soudah (with glass) greets hundreds of customers at the closing party.

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Dean Preston Takes a Bow for Making Page Street "Slow"

Last month, the SFMTA Board unanimously approved adding Page Street into the Slow Streets program. The entire program, and especially Page Street, has been one of the great transportation successes of the pandemic and is one of the City's most important and popular east-west active-transportation corridors. I am proud to have worked with SFMTA, neighbors, and advocates to get this program across the finish line. Prior to the meeting yesterday, I submitted my formal letter of support to the SFMTA Board.

I have been a strong supporter of the Page Slow Street every step of the way, including the SFMTA Page Street



Photo: Prestonstaff@sf.gov.org

In 2021, Preston led a walk-through with community members to provide in-depth feedback on the future of Page Slow Street.

Bikeway Improvements pilot in February, 2020 which included restrictions on freeway-bound traffic and bikeway upgrades between Webster Street and Octavia Boulevard and the temporary measures to limit non-local traffic westward to Stanyan Street as part of the COVID-19 emergency Slow Streets Program.

I look forward to continuing our work together to reduce carbon emissions, eliminate traffic fatalities, and achieve the green transportation system our City needs and deserves.

(Above was edited for length.)

—Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5

Great Blue Herons Return to Stow Lake for 30th Year



Feeling the urges of Spring, Great Blue Herons have begun building their nests at Stow Lake.

Great Blue Herons began nesting at Stow Lake in 1993. To date, 259 chicks have learned to fly here. The herons court, build their nests, mate, and lay eggs between January and March. By April the nests have chicks. The parents continue feeding them as chicks grow to about four feet tall.

Continued on Page 2, column 2

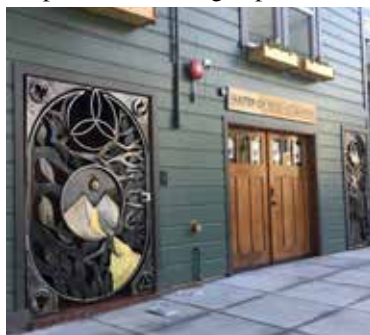
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More than a “Matter of Trust”

Have you ever passed the handsome garage doors on Cole Street made of natural wood with a hand-wrought sign identifying itself as Matter of Trust? Have you read the vague messages about protecting the environment and wondered who’s behind this and why they went through a lengthy process for a zoning variance to be able to operate a business, albeit nonprofit, in a residential garage?

At an open house around Valentine’s Day, neighbors were allowed into the back yard to see their “Showcase Green Apartment” with its tiny living space, toilet, chicken coop, vegetable garden and bee hives. Of course none of this is actually in operation but you do see the potential of living, if push comes to shove, like Robinson Crusoe.



This new Cole Street landmark is part of the bay area’s green revolution.

Bravo to the Eco-Industrial Hub with headquarters on Howard Street.

This did not solve the mystery, however. The two young people who were managing the event had limited knowledge of the organization other than its dedication to environmental protection. No, they do not manufacture the tiny houses, nor the toilets or any of the other pollution-free items featured. So, in my crude

way, I asked myself, who’s making a buck here?

Their website is unusual with its first demand, “DONATE HAIR, fur, fleece.” To help with oil spills, of course. But it did take me back a bit. The more I read, the more impressed I was with the sincerity



This tiny “green” home, is an example of minimal environmental impact.

of Matter of Trust. They encourage teachers to bring children on tours of the Cole Street back yard, offer their space for meetings to environmental groups and present exhibits with instruction on reducing carbon footprint.

They are part of a larger group describing itself as “Eco-Social Media Platform” at thehumsum.org. I still don’t quite understand how it’s funded or how it became part of our community without interface with any neighborhood organizations but, as far as I can see, they are working at a grass roots level, starting with youth. They want you to share, not only your hair but your compost, food and unwanted stuff. Yes, they’ll take money, too.

—Karen Crommie

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In June, the chicks begin to branch-hop and take short flights. They typically start leaving the nest at twelve weeks, around July Fourth.

On six Saturdays during the season in April and May, volunteers and interns will direct attention to the herons and chicks, explain their behavior, and answer questions. There will be a separate section for children taught by interns.



Nancy DeStefanis first discovered nesting herons at Stow Lake in 1993. Later she founded San Francisco Nature Education.

Please bring binoculars if you have them. Because of the pandemic, we will set up spotting scopes as we deem safe. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing among our volunteers and the public.

Meet at the Stow Lake Boathouse. A new observation site on the eastern edge of Stow Lake will be open from 10 am to 1 pm and will be marked by a sign.

SF Nature Education
April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20
from 10 am to 1 pm
For more information about programs,
please visit snature.org.

Reverie Cafe, Continued from Page 1, column 1

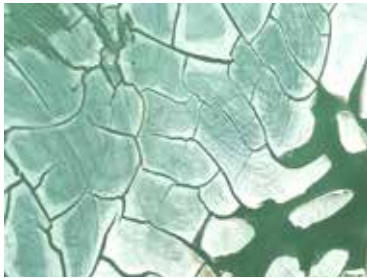
beverages. Neighbors milled around the rear garden smiling and taking pictures. People talked about their memories of great parties as well as quiet moments with a cup of coffee. It was sad. Au revoir, Reverie.”

Tina Stromsted posted on NextDoor, “Roger, has been such a warm, wise, inclusive, community-nurturing soul over all these years, with wonderful young people who work with him. Like an extended family, with everyone looking out for each other, and for customers in the hood. I’ve read hundreds of student papers and written many articles there over the years. Craig’s list was started there, local political campaign’s launched, weddings and birthday celebrations, poetry readings, music.”

In a recent message to the neighborhood, Roger wrote, “I extend my heartfelt thank you for all of your support through the last twenty-one years. We have shared many meals, raised many glasses, raised many kids, made many friends and lost some. We married people, celebrated birthdays, funded schools, and charities, supported campaigns but most importantly we created and maintained a community in a time when it has been most needed. For that I am grateful and honored to have been able to provide that over the years. Those of you who have been so kind to me and my family which includes my staff, please accept my deepest gratitude. I am not only losing a business but a lifestyle that has made me proud every day.”

More About the Wind Screens

The issue of the defaced windscreens at the Carl and Cole transit stop continued as CVIA board member and treasurer Joan Downey wrote to Mike Grizzle, manager of CleanScapes team that daily cleans Cole Street. Joan said: “We’ve been working with the



city on the issue of the wind screens. Turns out they installed material that could not be cleaned easily. (What WERE they thinking?) We’ll be asking that they replace the existing ones with something that can be easily cleaned. So two questions for you: (1) Can you recommend a material that

can be easily cleaned? (2) Once installed, will your crew remove any graffiti that appears?”

Mike responded, “Sorry to hear that (no surprise) the city put something [on the wind screens] that’s not ideal for maintenance. As for [suggesting a material of low maintenance] glass or metal would be the easiest for us to clean, but have their downsides for wind screen use. Glass can obviously be broken and metal wouldn’t be translucent and likely expensive. As for plastic, I’m not sure of an exact polymer but if it’s smooth and clear that would be best. When the surface is rough and also colored our chemicals don’t work as well, as you now know first hand. Yes, we can maintain those for you. Hope that helps.”

In the meantime, MTA has told us they want to remove the screens completely. The new style Carl-Cole transit stop is the only one in the city with wind screens and they’d rather not deal with it.

Ed. note: On the other hand, one “glass half-full” guy told us he liked the three-dimensional effect of the peeling acrylic, saying it reminded him of a mermaid he once knew.

Who Knew Waller Street Needed a Nail Salon?

The people at Shade Nail Spa certainly did because the new salon, taking the place of Soulful Pilates, on the corner of Waller and Clayton, opened last month and has been full ever since. They definitely want to emphasize the “spa” services, with a wide range of delicious-sounding treatments such as Peppermint Mani-Pedi Spa and La Rose Mani-pedi Spa, both \$90, but will deliver a solid

Photo: Alembic.com



pedicure called “Express Pedi” for \$35 and an “Express Mani” for only \$25. The manicure tables are a little tight but the beauticians are cordial and, hell, you can visit with your neighbors while getting the old nails in shape.

JFK Drive Now an “Art Walk”

If you haven’t walked down car-free JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, I urge you to do so. There are numerous art installations including “Doggie Diner” heads, a breaching whale, murals, three public pianos anyone may play, plus 100 colorful Adirondack chairs beckoning park visitors to sit and soak up the fun. The Golden Mile Project from Illuminate (creator of the Bay Bridge Lights) has collaborated with Rec and Park to bring these unique art pieces to JFK Drive. In addition to the new art, and for a limited time, visitors can



Photo: Tom Hubbard

also enjoy the stunning “Entwined,” a forest of illuminated color magically transforming Peacock Meadow into a neon wonderland. Children of all ages will enjoy this dazzling display that is scheduled to close on March 12.

—Tom Hubbard

Ed. note: Not everyone is a fan.

Monday Night Mixology at Alembic - March 6, 13, & 20

Designed to turn everyone from cocktail connoisseur to bar beginner into the ultimate host, the two hour classes walk you through



the technical requirements of mixing drinks, with a healthy dose of mixology history and a dash of spirits knowledge. Along the way you will make four full-sized cocktails under the experienced instruction of one of our professional mixologists, and enjoy some light snacks and a bit of conversation in a gorgeous bar. Go to alembic.com (classes). 1725 Haight.

Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or board@cviasf.org





Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Ten Cole Valley merchants contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period November 2021 to January 2023. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1000) Robert Goodman, Abby & David M. Rumsey

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500) Anonymous, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Karen and David Crommie, Pam & James Diwik, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors: (\$100 - \$249) Gina Bartlett, Cecile and Jeff Bodington, Chris Bunga, Chantal Byrne, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Mary Ann de Souza, Kathryn Demas, Elinor Diamond, Joan Downey, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Marianne Hesse, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Karen Mar, Jane & Michael Miller, Jacqueline Kelly & Dylan Morse, Janan New, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Bill and Joanne Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Maryann Rainey, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Sloane Sturzenegger, Tracy Grubb & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Nicole Valco, Mary Ann Wolcott

Contributors: (\$50 - 99) Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Sharon Birenbaum, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Kevin Dede, Frances Dependahl, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Linda Erkelens, Ruben Giraldo, Mary & John Hooper, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Catherine & Brian Kane, Barbara & John Manning, Jamie & Michael Moore, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Francine M. Prophet, MeMe Riordan, Kendra and William Robins, Susan and Steven Rosen, Valerie Walker, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, Victoria Zaroff, Zazie

Supporters: (\$25 - \$49) Barbara Alexander, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Rob Bakewell, Molly Barry, Gloria Lau & Robert G. Burkhead, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Sheila Cordon, Sarah Crockett, Karin de Brer, Beverley Epstein, Melissa & Glen Gee, Elizabeth Lee Giles, Mike & John Greenwood, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Douglas Hall, Robert Gordon and Bill Haskell, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Steven Madrid, Paul Michael, Adele Dorison & David Neuman, Gay & Jack Reineck, Helen and Allan Ridley, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts,

Marie Samson, Diane & Bob Silver, Bruce Steir, Edward C. Walls, Ken Wilcox, Susannah Wise, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman,

Boosters: (\$24 and below) Maryann Hrichak, Margo Kieser, Katherine Klionizchii, John Priest, Karen & Tom Smith

"Ansel Adams In Our Times"

Looking forward and back, this exhibition of more than 100 works by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams (1902 – 1984) places him in direct conversation with contemporary artists and the photographers who influenced him. Opening on April 8 at the DeYoung Museum and laid out in seven sections it traces



The Golden Gate Before the Bridge, 1932

Adams's artistic development through some of his most-loved photographs, including images of Yosemite, San Francisco, and the American Southwest. Adams's works are shown alongside prints by 19th-century landscape photographers, such as Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge, as well contemporary artists like Trevor Paglen, Will Wilson, and Catherine Opie. Their work engages anew with the sites and subjects that occupied Adams throughout his life — from national parks to the use and misuse of natural resources. For more information: deyoung.org.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Jack Hart holds community forums the Fourth Wednesday of every month (except December) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller). Or join the meeting via Zoom. To register go to: sanfranciscopolice.org/stations/park-station



**March 22, April 26, May 24
Mark Your Calendar**

San Franciscans Are Taking a Look in the Mirror. Ouch!

Nellie Bowles' essay last year in *The Atlantic* dissects the chronic problems of our fair city and is recommended reading for anyone who thinks we could be doing way better. It ends with this remark:

“For so long, San Francisco has been too self-satisfied to address the slow rot in every one of its institutions. But nothing's given me more hope than the rage and the recalls. San Franciscans are now saying: We can want a fairer jus-



The writer expresses obvious truths that San Francisco leaders will not.

tice system and also want to keep our car windows from getting smashed. And: It's not white supremacy to hope that the schools stay open, that teachers teach children, and, yes, that they test to see what those kids have learned.

“San Franciscans tricked themselves into believing that progressive politics required blocking new construction and shunning the immigrants who came to town to code. We tricked ourselves into thinking psychosis and addiction on the sidewalk were just part of the city's diversity, even as the homelessness and the housing prices drove out the city's actual diversity. Now residents are coming to their senses. The recalls mean there's a limit to how far we will let the decay of this great city go. And thank God.

“Because Herb Caen was right. It's still the most beautiful city you'll ever see.”

Excerpt from Nellie Bowles article in The Atlantic, June 8, 2022.

Eight Months Later . . .

Nellie Bowles, in her long Atlantic piece, from which the above was excerpted, found promise in the recall of three S.F. School Board members who kept schools closed too long; wanted to change Lowell High School admissions from grade-based to lottery; planned to rename 44 schools for past racial discrimination by their namesakes—including Abraham Lincoln and Dianne Feinstein; wanted to cover the Washington High mural showing a slain Indian, among other grievances. Unfortunately, the firebrand of that recall, parent Ann Hsu, who later became a School Board candidate, haplessly stated on a “SF Parent Action” questionnaire that, “the biggest challenges in educating Black and brown students were “unstable family environments” and “lack of parental encouragement to focus on learning,” thereby dissolving the career of a bright reformer. She lost the vote to a candidate closely aligned with the prior board.

—Karen Crommie

Science Fair At Randall Museum February 28 To March 4

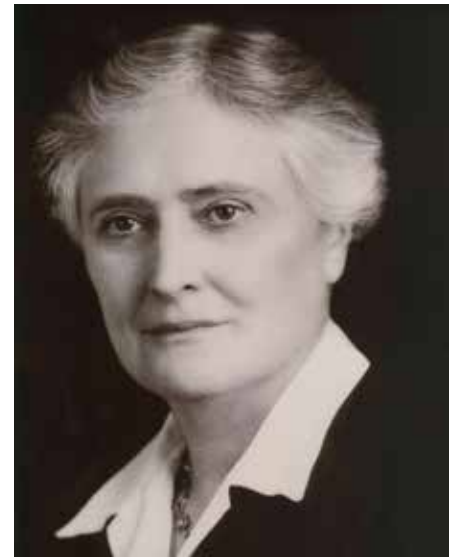
The Randall Museum, up on Corona Heights hill, is bringing back the San Francisco Middle School Science Fair this year. Science projects will be on display for public viewing Tuesday, February 28 through Saturday, March 4. On Saturday they will be welcoming visitors to the public event with community science groups hosting informative tables and drop-in science activities from 10:30 am – 4:00 pm. Directions: Follow Roosevelt up the hill and turn right on to 199 MUSEUM WAY.

Teachers should register on line at randallmuseum.org. They do not have to host a science fair at their school, but do have to RSVP in advance to receive an entry quota. Group projects of up to four are welcome.

The goal of the Fair is to emphasize the joy and accessibility of science and participation over competition; therefore, winners are not awarded cash prizes, but instead are offered a day trip to a Bay Area location of educational and entertainment interest. Top placing students will be eligible to move on to the SF Bay Area Golden Gate STEM Fair and then possibly the California Science and Engineering Fair!

What is the Randall Museum?

The Randall Museum was the inspiration of Josephine D. Randall. After receiving a Masters degree in zoology from Stanford University in 1910, Ms. Randall organized some of the first Girl Scout and Camp Fire Girl troops in the United States. She went on to become San Francisco's first Superintendent of Recreation, a position she held for a quarter of a century. In 1948 Ms. Randall became the first woman elected a Fellow of the American Recreation Society, and in 1950 she received an honorary Doctorate from the University of California. Under her direction, the San Francisco Recreation Department achieved national recognition as one of the most outstanding agencies of its kind.



Josephine D. Randall

One of Ms. Randall's long-term goals was to establish a nature museum for children. She believed that learning should be fun and imagined a museum that combined science and art, inspiring visitors to develop interests that would last throughout their lives. In 1937 her vision came to fruition when the “Junior Museum” opened in the city's old jail on Ocean Avenue. Ten years later Ms. Randall shepherded a \$12 million bond issue for recreation capital projects including a new museum. The new facility opened in 1951



16-acre park overlooking San Francisco Bay. In recognition of Josephine Randall's vision, hard work, and dedication, the museum was renamed in her honor. In 2004, the outdoor areas were renovated and in 2016 the entire interior of the museum was redesigned and revitalized to better serve its visitors.

Following completion of robust renovations in 2017, the Randall Museum features a STEM lab with state-of-the-art technological tools; a fully equipped woodworking studio; a natural sciences lab; art and ceramic studios; a toddler playroom; and permanent exhibits exploring ocean ecology, geology, and railroads, along with an extensive working model railroad. Dynamic habitat-based live animal enclosures house more than 100 creatures that can no longer survive in the wild, allowing museum visitors to interact with and learn about California's diverse wildlife. Outdoor areas feature an observation deck, a small amphitheater, a kinetic wind sculpture, native plant gardens, a water catchment sys-



Photo: Familyeducation.com

Families come from all over the Bay Area to visit the Randall Museum in our own backyard.

tem, picnic spots, and easy access to hillside hiking trails in Corona Heights.

Ms. Randall intended the museum to be "... a place that would foster a love of science, natural history, and the arts." As part of this continued mission, the Randall Museum provides free admission and free or low-cost hands-on learning experiences including exhibits, classes, summer camps, workshops, school field trips, and special events for children, teens, and adults.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

**Visit our website at
CVIASF.org**

The Legal Rights of Homeless People in Our Neighborhood

Injunction Granted In U.S. District Court: Case No. 22-cv-05502-DMR Published 1/25/23 Expires 1/25/26

The injunction above states that (Police) Department members may not use, enforce, or threaten to enforce the following laws and ordinances to prohibit homeless individuals from sitting, lying, or sleeping on public property. (Penal codes 647(e), 370, and 372, and also San Francisco Public Codes 168 (commonly known as sit/lie) and 169, prohibition of encampments without permits on sidewalk. As intended, this strongly constricts the response of police officers. There are exceptions, however.

■ If the encampment obstructs access to a public facility or fails to allow a 48" wide path of travel on a sidewalk. (Cal penal code 647, SF Police code 22-24).

■ If persons remain on private property after notification by owner or lessee. (SF Police code 25-27)

■ If someone is creating a "public nuisance" including accumulation of filth, waste material etc. (S.F. Municipal Health Code 581,596)

Further, there is a detailed set of rules for officers who work on compliance with these codes. The bottom line: be patient with the police since enforcement rules are not straightforward. Meanwhile continue to report any issues to the police, they need our input and support more than ever. The difficulties these regulations have made for police officers has not gone unnoticed by City Attorney David Chiu, who has filed a motion for clarification of conflicts in the laws.

—Lena Emmerly

Artist Portrays Historic Event



If you are not on the Facebook group called "Cole Valley: A Not-so-Secret Neighborhood," founded by our amazing neighbor Steve Silberman, go do it right now. Recently there appeared a new masthead design featuring a painting of Cole Valley on January 10 when Sutro Tower was struck by lightning. Its pastel colors and composition are compelling. But whom to credit? If anyone knows, please tell us at Board@cviasf.org.

Rec And Park's Summer Day Camps 2023 Deadline For Registration Is Looming

Priority Registration - March 13 at 10 am - Open to scholarship recipients only. 50% of available camp spots will be released.

General Registration - March 18 from 10 am - The remaining 50% will be released and the wait list will be activated. Wish List feature will be available starting Friday March 17 at noon. Register at sfrec.org/register

Attendance Requirements

Camp runs from June 5 through August 11. Children must attend the 1st week of the session in order to come to the camp. Failure to show for any week of the 3-week session will result in withdrawal with no refund. All youth must attend at minimum 4 days per week in order to stay enrolled.

Due to high need we are requiring that children will be screened daily for health and parents should not bring their child to camp if any member of the household, including the



child coming to camp, had fever, cough or shortness of breath in the last 24 hours or if the child had contact with a person with a confirmed case of coronavirus in the last two weeks.

Age Requirement

Children must at least be eligible for admission into first grade in the fall in order to sign up for most of these summer camps.

Pre-Camp Communication

All parents should receive an email each Wednesday prior to the start of camp. This will include information such as where to drop off and pick up your child, what to bring, outing and special activities information, contact information for the camp leaders, and any other important information. If you do not receive this email, please let us know!

What To Bring


Please bring a healthy bag lunch, a snack and refillable water bottle to each day of camp. Please wear and bring sunscreen if your camp is outdoors. Please wear appropriate clothing to camp: sneakers (closed toe shoes), layers, etc. Go to sfrecpark.org for more information.


Board@CVIASF.org


Please contact us by email if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* email address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.


What Did You Write on Your Membership/Renewal Form?

Ever wonder what we do with the comments we ask you to fill out on your renewal form? File them. Yes, we have accumulated quite a stack of responses over the last few years. CVIA treasurer Joan Downey has asked me to do something with them or she will throw them out. So I invested a day reading them all. The most common favorable attributes cited were "the people, the walkability and public transit," but here are some specifics that stood out.

 Henry Navas: "Kids, dogs, wildlife," Lynn Kormondy: "family oriented 'feel,' the food, Cole Hardware," Beverly Ku: Zazie's, Whitney Sher and Jake Horowitz: "architecture, Mt. Sutro,"


 Bill Barnaby: "quiet and safe," Katherine Bird and William Rotham: "Gus's, Robert's Hardware," MeMe Rior-dan: "geniality of most merchants," Deanna and Ron Jones singled out "the children." (Nice, that.)


 Christine Mills distinguished herself by being the only person to cite "the weather,"


 Helen and Allan Ridley appreciated "the kindness of




neighbors," Barbara Schulz and Barbara Alexander— both responded with "newsletter" (bless them) and, in an earlier response, the latter noted "the last vestiges of hippiedom."

 Edwin Caba: "a walking paradise," (Alex and Kenneth Nicholson and many others agreed),

 Whitney Sher and Jake Horowitz: "feels like our old neighborhood in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn," Ellen Rashbaum: "just the right amount of commerce," Debbie Beck and Len Conway were joined by Frances Dependahl in singling out "Golden Gate Park." Tom Nichol liked everything but was the only one to mention "Haight Street," Marjorie Crockett "good dining and drinks," "Cack" Wilhelm was the only person to specifically cite "the Kezar track."

 Beth and Rick Thurber said "central location," Cynthia Travis pointed out "the N Judah," and earlier, indicated "birds." Margo Hill and Cadell Child noted "The Booksmith," Katherine Bird and William Rotham: "Gus's and Robert's Hardware."

 Bill O'Such loved "Our village," Vivian Krame-boosted most of the neighborhood businesses followed by, "What's not to like?" But Anne Buchanan, Michael Moore, Barbara Schulz simply said, "everything." Thanks to all who took the time to list many specifics. Please keep it up. In times like this we need to be reminded of how lucky we are to be living here.

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Email board @cviasf.org to learn the location.

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), Waller Center Advisory Committee.

Board Meeting – January 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa.

Guests Angie Petit-Taylor and Carol Lau from Sunset Mercantile.

(Absent: Tom Hubbard, Shannon Cooper, Chris Hock)

■ In a two-month review, treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report showing that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$17, 547.18, with \$4,918.41 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery), now on hold.

■ Lena Emmery encouraged us to attend “Coffee with a Cop,” the outreach from Park Station officers to district residents. Meeting will take place on January 11 between 8 and 11 am at Central Coffee, Tea and Spice, 1696 Hayes Street, corner of Central.

■ Reviewed YIMBY’s report on the affordable housing building at 730 Stanyan that got the City’s approval of its permits.

■ Discussed agenda procedure for future Board meetings, deciding that items should be submitted to administrative assistant, Susan, approximately one week before the meeting so it can be compiled and disseminated a few days later.

■ Agreed that a letter be sent to the Mayor with copy to the SFMTA, RPD, regarding the persisting graffiti on the wind screens. Joan to draft for board approval.

■ Travis Bryant, scheduled to report on the condition of the Grattan Playground, was not able to attend, but sent a letter describing the enormous need for refurbishment. Board decided to send a letter of support for Grattan Playground upgrades.

■ Cole Valley Fair producer Angie Petit-Taylor and assistant Carole Lau reviewed September’s Cole Valley Fair with the Board and we shared our “lessons learned.” They stressed the cost of city fees to Traffic Control, Muni, etc. and the complication of funneling the funds from Supervisors’ “add back” money, which became clogged in city agencies, before actually appearing in the Fair’s account. Sunset Mercantile had been working closely with Supervisor Mandelman’s assistant Ross Green but were impeded by City Hall red tape.

CVIA Executive Board: Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Tom Hubbard, Joe Klosterman, Edward Walls.

CVIA Board Members pledged help with poster design and recruitment of certain featured Fair contributors such as the balloon-animal artist (Twee-Twee), a favorite of the under-five set) and Tree Frog Treks. Angie also recognized that she will need more staff next year and is actively looking for a professional neighborhood coordinator.

Adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Board Meeting – February 6, 2023 at 6:30 at the home of President Carole Glosenger

Guests: CVIA member Dylan Morse, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Legislative Aide Ross Green

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$17,950.39, with \$4,945.62 held in the Clean Cole Street fund. And \$4,667.20 being held as fiscal sponsor for AM Cyclery for parklet.

■ Ross Green reported on the problem getting Supervisor Mandelman’s “add-back” contribution to the Cole Valley Fair. It had been given to MTA to distribute to appropriate city agencies but it said it was not their policy to do so. They are keeping it to be used for rerouting buses during next year’s fair.

Green also said that he is working actively with MTA to replace the defaced windscreens at the Cole-Carl bus stop. A vote to remove the windscreens until replacements could be found ended in a tie continuing this item to next month.

■ Supervisor Rafael Mandelman updated us on the push and pull characteristic of the Board of Supervisors including: Aaron Peskin voted to, once again, serve as president; the struggle with police funding; Mandelman’s change of assignments to the Budget Committee; the slight strength-



District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman updates CVIA Board.

ening of moderates with the addition of Matt Dorsey and Joel Engardio to the Board; and Supervisor Catherine Stefani (District 2) finally getting to chair a committee (Neighborhood and Public Services).

Most of the time he lamented the City’s lack of response to the needs of people who are homeless and mentally ill. He explained why the current 5150 ordinance allowing involuntary custody is not helping and why even the 90 day treatment doesn’t work with the severely mentally ill. He noted the failure of conservatorship because of too high criteria—eight 5150 citations in a single year and also the suit against the City brought by the Coalition on Homelessness for not providing shelter for unhoused people.

He encouraged us to support those organizations made up of neighbors who are trying to solve the city’s seemingly intractable challenges we all (as residents) face: RescueSF (rescuesf.org), SF Action Plan (sfplanning.org), Together SF (togethersf.org)



■ Joan Downey reported that longtime CVIA member Jessica Justino, Cole Valley's historical photo curator, wants to design a group "food and drink walk" through the restaurants, bars and cafes of Cole Valley if enough of the businesses are interested. Board enthusiastically approved supporting the project and serving as fiscal sponsor.

Adjourned: 9:30



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2022 Merchant Participants

930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners,
Cole Hardware, Cole Valley Pets,
Crepes on Cole, Finnigans Wake,
Ino Vino, Padrecito, Postal Chase,
Wooden Coffeehouse

Miniature Rooms to Get Lost In

Cole Valley, besides being a charming little neighborhood in a beautifully located city, has the added bonus of interesting and talented people tucked away within it. One person who immediately comes to mind is Barbara Deuel. She has lived in Cole Valley for 32 years and became a child care provider in the neighborhood a year before her 21 year old son, Michael, was born. She is also an extremely talented creator of jewelry, ornaments, rosaries, cards and other handcrafted items. Recently she began creating fascinating miniatures that both warm the heart and stir the imagination.

She often sells her wares on weekends at the corner of Cole and Frederick and has participated in the Cole Valley Fair most years since it began. Since Covid, she started selling to individual customers and small groups in front of her home on Frederick St. Some of her work is available in her Etsy shop: A Wind and A Prayer Gifts. Her miniatures can be seen on FB and IG Enchanted Rooms Miniatures and on Twitter-Enchantedrooms. For more information, contact her at barbaradeuel44@yahoo.com



Artist Barbara Deuel has recently turned to three dimensions.



—Marianne Hesse

Start Training: Bay to Breakers is May 21

Sponsored again this year by Zappos, this historic 12k fun run through the streets of San Francisco is over 100 years in the making. Be there on Sunday, the 21st at Main Street and Howard before the gun goes off at 8 am.

It's a race designed for everyone, so dress up, bring your friends and be cheered on every step of the way by SF's finest crowds, particularly those who gather in the Panhandle as you run along Fell Street. Pushing boundaries and breaking records since 1912 – it's your turn to join the party.



Standard Entry is \$65, but if you want to run an extra 3K, it goes up to \$90. While participants in a "Centipede Team Run," pay only \$53. Register at baytobreakers.com.

12 k is a long way—over seven miles. If you're trying to get ready for the race with no previous training (or if it's been a few years since your last race), start with a challenging, but attainable goal. Try running a mile the first few days—or a half mile. Most trainers encourage 30-minute running sessions, three times a week, with a longer run on the weekend.

Club Deluxe Still Dark

The owner of Club Deluxe has been strangely silent for the last four months after receiving a reprieve from the building owner Veritas Investments. Hammered by the COVID shutdown, the popular Haight Street jazz club, near the corner of Ashbury, was forced to close and owner Sarah Wilde was left without funds to pay the rent.

There was nothing to compare with this neighborhood bar that featured different bands seven nights a week, with free entry



Rob Dehlinger's "Alpha Rhythm Kings" played often before the closure.

(or almost free), and where people of all stripes and ages happily gathered to listen to a varied menu of great jazz. It was a staple for local musicians as well as their followers.

A call to Veritas Investments this week shed no light on a reopening date, or even it's going to happen. Company spokesman Ron Heckman said they continue to work with Ms. Wilde but they have no definitive news regarding reopening and suggested we contact again him in "three or four weeks."

In the meantime, Veritas has its own problems. In January, the city's largest realtor defaulted on a \$448 million loan.

—Karen Crommie

Gus's Buys Glen Park Market

We all know the story: Haight Ashbury Produce, a staple on Haight Street since 1981, changed its name to Gus's in honor of its founder, Konstantinos "Gus" Vardakastanis, after he was killed in

Photo: Erin Ng/Canyon Market



Dimitri Vardakastanis (left), Georgia Vardakastanis, Bobby Vardakastanis, Janet Tarlov and Richard Tarlov outside Canyon Market. The Tarlovs have sold the business they founded in 2006 to the Vardakastanis

a hit-and-run accident in 2017. This simple market grew to what is now described by Chronicle writer Mario Cortez as a "family-owned chain" with four markets, three called Gus's Community Market, and all here in San Francisco. The Vardakastanis family, made up of Gus's two sons, Bobby and Dimitri and their mother Georgia, recently purchased Glen Park's Canyon Market from co-owners and founders Janet and Richard Tarlov.

Chronicle writer Mario Cortez wrote the following in the December 14, 2022 edition:

"The existing Canyon Market name and signage will stay in place, but the store will eventually incorporate Gus's Community Market branding. The 7,200-square-foot store will not be closing as

Photo: Gabrielle Lurie/The Chronicle



Marbella Garcia stocks inventory at Canyon Market in San Francisco.

ownership changes, and operations will remain as they are, with the current 90-person staff remaining. Product stock is not expected to change dramatically, as both businesses' suppliers overlap, but there are plans to eventually introduce Gus's store brand products.

"The Tarlovs met brothers Dimitri and Bobby Vardakastanis earlier this year. The siblings eventually made the right offer at the right time for the Tarlovs, Dimitri and Janet Tarlov told The Chronicle.

"Preserving the great legacy that the Tarlov family built there

and offering a great full-service market to the Glen Park neighborhood is an honor and a privilege for us," Gus's Community Market said co-owner Dimitri Vardakastanis.

"Our intention was always for the store to continue operating, and obviously we are not going to be able to do it forever," Janet Tarlov said. "Having another independent, family-owned business take over was a natural fit."

"Gus's acquisition of Canyon Market is the latest in several local market mergers. In October, Bi-Rite, another family-owned market, took over Russian Hill's Real Food Co., which touted itself as one of the first natural food stores in San Francisco.

"Janet Tarlov sees these mergers as indicative of the business environment for small, independent grocers. "Now, more than ever, stores need economies of scale to make the whole operation work," she said.

"During the ownership transition period, Richard Tarlov will continue working at Canyon Market, while Janet Tarlov will continue to hold her post at the Glen Park Merchants Association. They have yet to decide what's next after that.

"There are trips that we'd like to make and people we'd like to visit," Janet Tarlov said."

Reprinted and edited from the SF Chronicle, December 14, 2022 with gratitude to Chronicle staff writer Mario Cortez

730 Stanyan: Construction to Begin This Summer

New building permits were approved by the Planning Department for the construction of an eight-story affordable housing apartment complex at Stanyan between Haight and Waller. The project is expected to cost just over a million dollars per unit, costing nearly \$166 million. Along with the approval, the Board of Supervisors



Rendering by OMA

last October passed a resolution supporting potential state funding for the project.

The proposal is a joint development by the Chinatown Community Development Center and the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation. Plans for 730 Stanyan Street have increased in size from 120 units across six floors to 160 units across eight floors, all to be 100% affordable housing for very low-income to low-income units.

Park Branch Library Open Hours (1833 Page Street)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

Postscripts

Through the efforts of Supervisor Dean Preston, starting on Jan. 1, 2024, property owners with at least three units that have been vacant for more than 182 days (six months) will be taxed between \$2,500 and \$5,000 per empty unit. That penalty will increase to as much as \$20,000 each year per empty unit.

Remember that dark back room at Kezar Bar and Restaurant? Under the management of Jim (Bacon Bacon) Angeles, the recently renamed Cole Valley Tavern has a back-



of-the bar room that is now bright and welcoming, if not so romantic, with a striking wall mural of the 'hood. Go on in, order a French onion grilled cheese and a beer and take a table in this very appealing back room.

Wonder why a plant is not thriving? The Botanical Garden's Library of Horticulture has partnered with the UCCE Master Gardener Program of San Mateo and San Francisco to bring you a free service to help with your own garden. Stop by the Botanical Garden on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and ask your questions. (Please do not bring any plant samples. Photos only.)

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Media Outreach.....	Chris Hock
Membership	Lena Emmery
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CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2023 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

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- Emergency (crimes in progress)911
- Homeless Outreach Team628-652-8000
- Disturbance (non-emergency).....415-553-0123
- Blocked Driveways.....415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Health Department415-255-3610
- Litter (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal.....311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting.....415-554-0730

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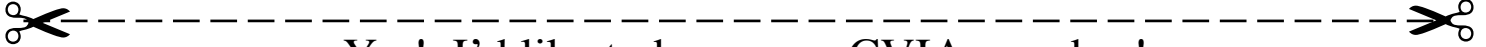
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) is a nonprofit, member-funded, volunteer organization working to continuously enhance and improve Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury.

Our mission is to promote a safe, respectful community, help enhance the lives of all residents, support our merchants, and present an active voice to address civic, social and safety issues in our neighborhood.

Please clip and mail the coupon below to CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117



Yes! I'd like to become a CVIA member!

Here's my check for \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Renewal

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

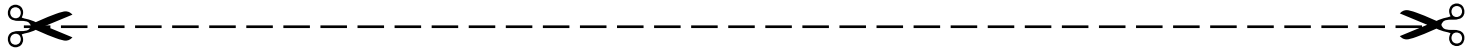
What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ _____ or the community work of CVIA \$ _____

Do NOT acknowledge my optional contribution in the newsletter

Dues and contributions may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



**Cole Valley Improvement Association
P.O. Box 170611
San Francisco, CA 94117**