

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2021

A Florist in Cole Valley

A charming flower shop opened this month in the former TANTRUM storefront at 858 Cole Street. Dasluz is proudly owned by Cole Valley resident Sandra Bautista, a first-time owner. Originally from San Diego, she has lived



Sandra Bautista just opened Dasluz, a full-service florist in Cole Valley.

in the Bay Area for ten years, studying design while working for five years with an Oakland florist.

Her 'soft opening' last month met with a deluge of good wishes as reflected in her Facebook post, "I have received lots of good wishes, welcome notes, messages and gifts

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Caution: No More Left Turns onto Masonic from Haight

There's a good reason says the SFMTA, "Left turns cause vehicles to make quick lane changes into the right lane to go around vehicles waiting to turn left impeding the movement of buses in the right lane. Implementing full-time left-turn restrictions at these intersections will reduce these quick lane changes and improve bus speeds and reliability. In addition, since left turns are a chief cause of vehicle accidents, this should



provide a safety benefit for pedestrians, seniors, people on bicycles, and others on this vital stretch."

Booksmith Consolidates into Single Volume

After several years of work and planning, we have moved the entire Booksmith store to what had been The Bindery at 1727 Haight Street. We've rebuilt the space—which we've used for the past several years as a dedicated event venue—to allow us to accommodate the same robust, deep inventory we've worked to cultivate over the years. Redesigning the store has allowed us to fit our stock of 26,000 books, accommodate a flexible space for literary and community events, and restore the space to its original footprint.

The Booksmith was founded in 1976 on the 1700 block of Haight Street by Gary Frank, and had been in its current home at 1644 Haight since 1985, meaning that 1727 Haight will be the third address for the 44 year-old legacy business.



In a neighborhood that once had four bookstores, there is now only one, but it's a doozy.

Prior to its current use as the Bindery, Booksmith's dedicated event space, the location served as the home to the Red Victorian Movie House, owned and operated by an employee collective including building owners Betsy and Jack Rix.



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We invite you to share our excitement as we look forward and embark on our next chapter. We're able to be here and do what we do entirely because of the support and dedication of our community—thank you! Keep reading, keep discovering, keep dreaming. We so look forward to welcoming you to our new home.

—Christin Evans, Booksmith Co-owner

Join Sutro Stewards

Join our community of Mountain lovers during our 2021 Membership Drive. This year we are so grateful to the Cole Valley Improvement Association for matching our membership drive dollar to dollar, up to \$1500. This doubles the impact of your membership. Not only that, but, for one month



Volunteers take part in weeding and planting.

only, renew or become a Member at the Trailblazer level or above, and receive a free gift membership for a friend or loved one. Share your passion for nature, recreation and our beautiful Mountain oasis in the middle of the City.

As a member, not only do you directly support our programs with your membership, but you also gain special access to outdoor retailer discounts as well as invitations to mountain tours and botanical walks and a gift certificate to our native plant nursery. We have exciting plans this year, including launching our Health in Nature program which prescribes nature immersion for positive health outcomes, our Summer High School Internship program, and as we (crossing our fingers) emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, we are excited to expand our community outreach to connect people to the biodiversity of Mount Sutro.

—Lidiko Polony
Executive Director
Sutro Stewards

Membership Levels

- **Student/Senior** \$35 - Eligible for current students and Senior Citizens. Same benefits as Steward below.
- **Steward** \$50 - Discounts at Sutro Native Plant Nursery, Sports Basement, access to Columbia Sportswear employee store, invitation to member events, and more!
- **Trailblazer** \$100 - Same as Steward, plus a 1-year introductory subscription to Bay Nature Magazine.
- **Summiteer** \$250 - Same as Trailblazer plus two free tickets to a special event and \$50 gift certificate to the Sutro Native Plant Nursery.
- **Conservator** \$500 - Same as Trailblazer plus a private guided hike for you and 10 friends, four free tickets to a special event, and \$100 gift certificate to the Sutro Native Plant Nursery.

Membership is valid for one year from the date your card is issued.

Cole Valley Florist continued from page one, column one.

from strangers. I cannot express how happy I am to be here and I cannot wait to brighten your days and your loved ones with flowers. Gracias de todo corazón." Her arrangements are priced according to size—small, medium and large. The arrangements pictured on her website are what she describes "medium" and cost \$50 wrapped and tied as a bouquet. For a medium size arrangement delivered in a vase, the charge is \$85. She has excellent taste—no plastic gee-gaws or cheap ribbon here. We haven't had a good florist in the neighborhood since Neda's (Haight Street) closed over ten years ago and so she is especially welcome.

Sandra, who describes herself as a "community florist," is opening the space once a month to neighborhood artists. The first event will take place on May 28 at 6:30 when Mora Berman will be exhibiting her work. For more information go to @dasluz.sf or call (415) 592-8156.

—Karen Crommie

N-Judah Train Is Back!

The SF Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) restarted N-Judah rail from Ocean Beach to Caltrain on May 15. It's been a year with buses substituting for the rail service—



N-Judah trains have replaced the crowded shuttle busses..

other than a few days in August last year when an attempt to reopen Muni Metro ended after two days following equipment failures and an employee in the transit system's control center testing positive for the coronavirus.

With only the N and T lines running in the tunnel, the past erratic service record, often blamed on subway congestion, should be eliminated.

The 43 Masonic service continues its shortened route ending at Presidio and California. The 37 Corbett is back to its pre-pandemic route but the 6 Parnassus still is not scheduled for a return.

Facemasks will still be required on public transit, per state guidance.

—Joan Downey

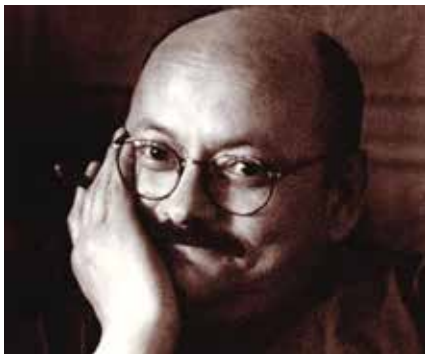
If you would prefer to receive this newsletter *only* by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com



Robert M. Leon

Robert Leon, executive director of the Haight Street Fair died last month. Like his predecessor Pablo Heising, Robert died quickly and unexpectedly from a heart attack. Robert kept the Fair going for 14 years after Pablo's death. The Haight Ashbury Street Fair was Robert's life. Although it is a one-day event, it takes practically the whole year to plan it. Again, like Pablo, his death leaves doubt in the future of the Fair.

Neighborhood groups along with (then) Park Station Captain John Ehrlich managed to restrict alcohol sales, which was the Fair's main source of revenue. Since



Pablo's death, it has always been on the edge of financial disaster. Robert, as the Fair's director, was usually expected to get a small share of the proceeds. But since the Fair

barely broke even, and was often in the red, Robert's compensation was miniscule. But for Robert the Fair was much more than just money.

COVID, of course, has not helped the Fair. In 2019 the Fair was already struggling financially, and 2020 it was suspended. It is likely to be suspended this year, as well. Without the dedication and strong leadership of Robert Leon it is questionable if the Haight Ashbury Street Fair will come back at all. Time will tell. At this time, however, we should admire those who dedicated their lives to keep our neighborhood's quirky institutions alive. These are the things that make it unique. And we give thanks to people like Robert and his tremendous dedication to the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. Rest in peace Robert.

—Flip Sarrow

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 at cviasf@aol.com



Bold Plan for Haight Recovery

Christin Evans, owner of the Booksmith, and also head the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, had to leave her legacy storefront during the COVID crash of brick-and-mortar retail (See article on pg. 1). But she is not content to sit and watch the number of storefront vacancies in the Haight Street corridor increase further. The number stands at 31. Rather, she is working actively to do something about it.

Based on the results of a trade area survey of both the Haight Ashbury and Lower Fillmore conducted by the City last fall, merchant organizations of the two neighborhoods have submitted a joint proposal to fill these storefronts and hopefully rescue their economic future.

Evans describes the plan as using city funding for the services of a "master broker," to be hired either directly or through a non-profit, who would perform due diligence on the status of each vacancy—identifying issues and obstacles to its being rented.



Can a Master Broker save the Haight?

She says that the reasons might be as simple as the demolition of old fixtures, a junk run and a coat of paint, or more serious issues such as ADA compliance—conditions that must be addressed before the property can be leased. A grant of \$40,000 - \$50,000 has been requested for this purpose from the city's Office of Economic and

Workforce Development (OEWD). If hiring a master broker is accomplished, there is no doubt that some landlords would be nudged into action. Success would depend heavily on the broker's ability to coerce reticent building owners without infringing on their property rights. It's a pragmatic plan that goes to the core of the problem and is certainly better than doing nothing.

—Karen Crommie

Future of Safe Sleeping Site

On one hand the temporary safe sleeping site on Haight and Stanyan has been a success in providing some safety and stability for 40 homeless people. On the other hand, developers want to get started on preliminary work for the affordable housing planned on that corner. With the eviction



When the June deadline arrives, will they leave?

deadline already extended by six months, the City plans to move the campers to tent sites in other neighborhoods. Supporters say that's unfair because their homes are

here in the Haight. Others say they will refuse to leave and simply pitch their tents on neighborhood sidewalks. The solution is a petition now circulating demanding that the City guarantee them hotel rooms. (See **Breaking News** pg. 10.)



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly—especially because we have not asked Cole Valley merchants to contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year. The cleaning service costs CVIA \$1,033 each month and 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 May 2020 to April 2021. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG (\$2500): Tracy & Patrick Jennings

Beacons (\$500 - \$999): Abby and David M. Rumsey

Benefactors (\$250 - \$499): Karen & David Crommie, Linda Erkelens, Linda C. Hothem, Jane & Michael Miller, Pacific American Group, Attn: Theron Bullman, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Chris Bunga, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Gina Centoni, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Linda Coda, Cole Hardware, Attn: Rick Karp, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Katie Dahlinghaus, Diane & Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, Joan Downey, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Robert Goodman, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Marianne Hesse, Mary & John Hooper, Catherine & Brian Kane, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Peter Mansfield, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Flavia Naves, Janan New, Lauren Ross, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Nathan Wolfe

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anon, Kay Auciello, Gina Bartlett, Kathleen Bertram, Sharon Birenbaum, Chris Broderick, Phillip Brodey, Chantal Byrne, Lena Emmerly & Charles Ganepa, Hayley Moore & Eugene Chen, CreoLa, Attn: Edwin Caba, Frances Dependahl, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Shannon & Chris Hock, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Jessica Justino, Lauren Peters Ligue, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Bahareh & John Manning, Craig Newmark, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Francine M. Prophet, Michael Rafferty, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra & William Robins, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Diane & Bob Silver, Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Mary Ann Wolcott, Victoria Zarof

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anon, Susan Allen, Molly Barry, Estela Becerra, Kristina & Howard Case, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Sheila Cordon, Karin de Brer, Kevin Dede, Adele Dorison, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Nick Fram, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Heather Hawker, Ethel Konopka, Lynn Kormondy, Laura Lai, Steven Madrid, Richard Magary, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Michael Moore, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Celia Price, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Sandra Radtka, MeMe Riordan, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Marie Samson, Susan Strolis, Deborah Van Atta, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Edward C. Walls, Connie Kullberg & Robert Weaver, Susannah Wise

Boosters (\$24 and below): Peter Scott Duyan, Beverley Epstein, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Maryann Hrichak, John Priest, Shannon Riordan, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder, Cynthia Travis

Horses Return to GG Park

The Chaparral Ranch, based in Woodside, is taking part in a pilot program to bring horses back to Golden Gate Park permanently. The current six-month contract will be in place until the fall.

The Park's Bercut Equitation Field is located near 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way. The eighteen horses are kept busy between the hours of 10 am to 4 pm, seven days a week with a variety of programs including lessons and trail rides using both English and Western saddles.

Chaparral is also offering "horse camps," a week-long training for children ages six and up including a one hour lesson with the rest of the day spent receiving instruction about horse grooming and care, history of the horse, parts of the horse, colors and markings, how to saddle, and more.



Photo: Lena Emmerly

San Francisco's history of horseback riding goes back 130 years.

Campers will also be entertained with games and crafts. For the riding portion of the day, campers will be grouped together based on experience and skill level.

Level 1: Basic seat, walk, and horse handling.

Level 2: Walking and posting and intro to the trot while staying centered and balanced.

Level 3: Sitting trot, direct rein, leg yields, head set, and collection.

Not cheap at \$450 per week, but an excellent opportunity to introduce children to the world of horses and horsemanship. Four hours a day from 9 am to 1 pm. For younger children there are the time-honored pony rides—\$15 for 15 minutes. For more information contact: chaparralcorporation.com or call them at 404-726-8453.

—Lena Emmerly

Volunteer Saturday, May 29

Those darn weeds keep coming back and your help is needed. Meet at the plaza above the lakelet at Stanyan and Haight Streets at 10 am.. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location. Bring a mask (and gloves if you have them) and wear layers of comfortable clothing. No one under 18 is permitted and the group is limited to 10 - so sign that waiver quickly because it is first-come; first-served. Here is the link to the waiver you must sign bit.ly/sfrpdvolunteerwaiver



Things can happen to get in the way of best laid plans. If you signed the waiver but cannot attend, please call Susan Strolis at 415-738-9757 to open up a space for someone else.

Who Thought Use of JFK Drive Would Become So Polarizing?

The banning of cars on JFK Drive, Golden Gate Park's main drag, has developed into a question of class warfare, or rather, a woke litmus test among members of the Board of Supervisors. As we have reported, cars were banned from the Park's main drag on Sundays in 1967. Then some Saturdays were added. Since weekends are the days of the Museums' most attendance, they felt the pinch. During the COVID mandate to stay at home, Rec and Park decided to use the reduction in Park automobile traffic to completely close the east end of JFK to recreation only. And indeed it is a heartwarming sight to see how fully it has been used by a wide range of people. But now that the health restrictions have ended, the Museums want that access reopened and others want it to remain closed to cars.

Yes, Keep JFK Closed to Traffic!

1. Class Equity

Those in favor of permanent street closure say that a park is for recreation and cars should take a backseat. Whereas the museums cater to the "haves," a car-free JFK gives recreational opportunities to everyone—for free. The closure of JFK Drive removed 300 parking spaces. The Park has 5,000 of them, plus thousands more just outside it.

2. Pedestrian and Bike Safety.

JFK Drive is one of the city's most dangerous streets pre-covid. It was a "high injury network street, which has had zero injuries and deaths as a closed street. Pre-covid, three-quarters of the traffic on JFK was "cut-through," meaning people were not traveling to a destination in the park, but rather using it as a route to somewhere else. One could assume that this is why it was a high injury network street—people driving to get some place quickly. (Serena Unger)

3. Historical Tradition

Ecologist Jake Sigg liked to remind us that the Park's designer William Hammond Hall said that, "The park should be an urban pastoral retreat, a semblance of nature." It was not to be a playground for the rich and powerful, who had country homes and could travel around the world. It was designed for the urban poor who couldn't afford a visit to Yosemite or even to leave the city."

4. Child Friendly City

In November 2019, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution to make San Francisco a child friendly city. The resolution states that "The City and County of San Francisco has high aspirations and standards for all of its children and families . . . ensuring that all children have access to quality cultural and natural environments in the public realm and that natural environments are designed to promote their best interests" (lines 16-20). JFK with cars on it does not support children, their safety, nor their physical and emotional development. As Enrique Penalosa, the former mayor of Bogota, has said "Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for everyone." (Serena Unger)

No, Restore Car Traffic to JFK Drive!

1. Less Attendance at DeYoung and Academy of Sciences

Closing JFK Drive to traffic lowers Museum/Academy attendance—and any elaboration returns to this basic principle: attendance is money and, like all cultural institutions, they need as much as they can get. (In 2017, then DeYoung Director Max Hollein said Saturday closure had decreased attendance by 14%, but the Museum has since then backed away from giving numbers. No one wants the admission prices for the DeYoung and the Academy of Sciences which are \$15 and \$43.75 respectively, to go higher, so they must maximize attendance.

2. Racial Equity

The Museums acquired unlikely bedfellows recently when two San Francisco supervisors said the no-car policy insensitive to the needs of their constituents. President of the Board of Supervisors Shamann Walton told Chronicle columnist Heather Knight, "Closing JFK Drive to people who only walk and ride bikes is segregationist." In another interview, Walton went further saying that "the closure of JFK Drive was another example of "recreational redlining."

3. Concourse Inaccessibility to Disabled

"Imagine getting to the Conservatory, for example, on public transit if you have something like MS or Parkinson's or arthritis or the need to use a walker. Look at the pictures of all those young people skating, biking, boarding on JFK Drive and ask yourself how many seniors do you see there? (Rev. Glenda Hope)

4. Geographical Discrimination

Permanently closing JFK Drive to cars would create a permanent access barrier to Golden Gate Park for countless numbers of people, including many seniors, people with mobility and other disabilities, families, and people from places where driving is the only realistic option. It isn't possible for San Franciscans who live in Bayview, Mission, Lakeview and Excelsior, for example, to get to Golden Gate Park on public transportation. (Maryo Mogannam)

Compromise Solutions

Clearly a compromise is in order so that the attractions in the Park are accessible to all. The County Transportation Authority on May 11 approved a report that will postpone a decision to the end of the year. At the same time, the city will conduct a "equity study" proposed by Supervisor Shamann Walton. A joint hearing by Rec and Park and SFMTA is not expected until October. All this before it actually goes before the Board of Supervisors. Until then, JFK Drive will remain closed to cars.

Some of the suggested remedies are: Improving the JFK Drive shuttle; making a single one-way lane with accessible parking spaces along the south side of street so that those who have difficulty walking can have easy access to Museums and Rose Garden; lower the price of the garage so more people will use it (It's \$33 a day now.); make use of nearby garages like UCSF's—with good 'wayfinding' measures in place; close a section west of Crossover Drive in place of the current stretch; but most important, improve public transit from the city's south-east districts to the Park.

Not Easy to Lower Garage Rates

The Music Concourse Community Partnership (MCCP), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, was incorporated on August 14, 2001 to construct and manage the Music Concourse Garage after the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, cre-



Concourse Garage parking fees cannot be lowered directly by the City.

ated through the voter approved Proposition J in 1998, failed to raise adequate private funds to complete the Garage. The full cost of the construction was \$57,000,000. \$30,000,000 was funded through philanthropic donations. The remaining \$27,000,000 was funded through bonds backed by future garage revenues.

In 2004, the city entered into a ground lease with MCCP to manage day-to-day garage operations. MCCP is responsible for paying the debt incurred during Garage construction. Once this debt is retired, the lease will be terminated and Garage operating responsibilities will be transferred to the City of San Francisco.

Rates are approved in a process that involves the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and then the signature of the Mayor. Annually, the City Controller's Office sets Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases for the rates. 25% of all parking fees goes directly to the City of San Francisco for Parking Taxes, more than \$1 million each year.

—Jan Berckefeldt
*Managing Director
 Music Concourse Community Partnership.*

First Exhibit at Norm Larson's

When long time neighbor Norman Larson died in March of 2018, it was no surprise that he left his home at the corner of Haight and Ashbury to the San Francisco Heritage Foundation (SFHF). He had spent years establishing its provenance as the original home of the Doolan family and restoring its rooms to their original layout. When he removed an added wall, he left the marks on the walls and floor as if to document what in his eyes was an abomination.

When, after years of research, he was successful in getting the three-story building at 1508-1510 Haight a place in the National Register of Historic Places (designated San Francisco Landmark No. 253), its future was sealed. It would become a place where the history of the neighborhood would be remembered and honored. The Heritage Foundation took possession, placed a bronze plaque on the outside and then—nothing. For months transient youth have settled in on the sidewalk frontage with chairs, mattresses and a seeming unending readiness to party.

The Foundation finally opened up the former Doolan-Larson house to the public last month with an experiential event called, "Living in the Past." And the "living" part was quite literal. Artist Jeremy Fish had been living and working in the building as part of a three-month residency program.

From the SFHF's website: "Fish's artwork is a testament to the history of the Upper Haight – its most famous residents and meeting places; its architecture and character – and the stories that hover over every foot of ground there. His living at the corner of Haight and Ashbury at this moment infuses the poignancy of these images: the fear and hope we all feel now. The exhibition asks how we can best serve the people and the places that make the Haight unique, and central to San Francisco." It can be visited Thursday through Sunday from noon to 6 pm until June 6.

During his lifetime, Norman used the building's immense attic for concerts and meetings— specifically for the Log Cabin Club of which he was a member. He was devoted to the Philharmonia Baroque and had an impressive sound system with a vast collection of discs and tapes which he delighted



The Doolan-Larson House is now owned by the SF Heritage Foundation and open during select hours.

in playing for visitors. For that reason it is only right that the large room would be used for music—enter the next artist to receive a SFHF residency. From the SFHF website: "After the successful launch of our inaugural artist-and-residency program at the Doolan-Larson Residence with Jeremy Fish, we are pleased to announce that a new artist is continuing the program this year. Soon to collaborate with San Francisco legacy business Goode Performance Group on a special Heritage-supported piece called "Time of Change" (to debut in fall 2021), composer Ben Juodvalkis will create and install a multi-room audio documentary to support future public tours and events at the Residence."

"Since 2007, Ben has composed for more than 50 organizations, ranging from avant-garde museum installations to corporate keynotes. Additionally, he has released five albums and toured extensively with his rock band Battlehooch. With a background in classical piano and percussion, his compositions are grounded in melody and rhythm.

"At the Doolan-Larson Residence, Ben will combine interviews with original music. Spoken content will come from existing and newly-recorded interviews with counter-culture participants who have a personal connection with the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. The musical portion will be composed onsite and will respond to the unique qualities of selected rooms in the Residence, with each composition varying widely in composition and texture." For a history of the building and future plans, go to

—Karen Crommie

Urban's Ground-breaking Coach

The Haight's Urban High School was recently featured in the SF Chronicle (4-23-21), not because of its high scholastic achievement, but for its baseball coach Oz Sailors who, as a little girl just wanted to play baseball with the boys. Ron Kroichick reported that, "Sailors figured she was on track when she made the all-star team at age 8 in her hometown of Santa Barbara. Soon thereafter, one coach offered a familiar, frustrating refrain for girls who want to play baseball—he told Sailors she would have to switch to softball before turning 12.

"She took it as a challenge not only in high school but also by pitching for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, a Division III program. Then she traveled the world to play



Urban School baseball coach Oz Sailors.

baseball professionally, from Virginia and the Independent League to the San Rafael Pacifics and then to Australia, Japan and Korea (where she played on a U.S. all-star team), plus a coaching stop in China.

"Sailors, who endured bullying as a high school freshman and heckling during road games in college, has found refreshingly little resistance at Urban. Some of the team's players conducted one of her interviews, she said, and recommended her to the school's athletic director.

"Her gender hasn't once been a topic of conversation, she insisted—the players call her 'Coach' and focus on baseball.

"This generation of kids doesn't care,' Sailors said. 'It's the stegosaurus out there who have a problem . . . If you love something and you're good at it, you should have the opportunity.'"

Ed. note: Many thanks to Ron Kroichick, Chronicle reporter and sports columnist, for his article quoted above.

What Does "Yellow Level" Mean?

As San Francisco lowers its COVID risk status from orange to yellow, here are the new rules.

- Indoor bars can open to 25% capacity, up to 100 people.
- The three-household table limit on indoor dining will be lifted, with up to eight diners allowed per table.
- Indoor family entertainment may expand to 50% capacity. Indoor activities including ice and roller skating, golf arcades and playgrounds may reopen to 50% capacity.
- Movie theaters can have capacity to 50%, up to 500 people.
- Libraries may open to 50% capacity.
- Offices may open to 50% capacity.
- Indoor live audience venues may expand to 50% of capacity and where food and beverages are served may host groups of less than 200 without requiring proof of vaccine or negative tests.
- Indoor fitness and athletic facilities may expand to 50% capacity and classes may expand to 50% to 200 people.
- Adult day programs and senior community centers may expand to 50% indoor capacity, up to 50 people.

CVIA Parts Ways With UCSF

CVIA's longtime representative to the citizens' advisory group (CAG) of UCSF's long-range development plan (LRDP), overseeing the University's expansion plans, has left the group in protest. Below is the letter Chuck Canepa submitted to UCSF on March 14.

To: LRDP-CAB

I feel that the Citizens Advisory Group meetings are staged to mimic community involvement that will allow UCSF to claim validation through this choreographed "process." I no longer wish to be a part of it.

The long-standing space ceiling negotiated with the surrounding community and the foundation of the CAG group, with which UCSF has never complied, has been thrown out by a vote of the regents. Subsequently a MOU with City Hall has insured a seal of approval, which makes being on

this advisory group a waste of time.

I do feel updating of the campus is appropriate and a new hospital is needed on the west side of the city, but the sheer size of the proposed structures is way out of scale with the location.

The proposed new hospital with a height of 297 feet, encroaching into open space on the back of Edge-



After attending years of meetings former CVIA President Chuck Canepa feels the process is disingenuous.

wood residential property, is four times the size of any other building west of Divisadero St. It will cast a long shadow into Cole Valley every afternoon and dominate the skyline.

The planned eight-story residential structures at Aldea Housing in Sutro forest are not accessible by intended families except by automobile or UCSF shuttle.

Three other proposed tall buildings on the south side of Parnassus adjacent to Sutro forest, described as "Park to Peak," is just an illusion. In reality it will be a wall of enormous buildings, from Medical Center Drive on the east, to 5th Avenue on the west, completely hiding the forest when looking up from Golden Gate Park. See the plan and renderings at <https://ucsf.app.box.com/v/parnassusplan>.

—Chuck Canepa

Ed. note: If anyone wants information regarding a place on the Citizens' Advisory Group, contact Abbie Ellis at abigail.ellis@ucsf.edu for information.

CVIA Board Minutes

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), UCSF Long Range Planning Citizens Advisory Group (CAG), Waller Center Advisory Committee, and the SF Westside Transportation and Accessibility Coalition (SFWTAC).

Virtual Meeting on Zoom— March 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has \$14,407.58; Clean Cole Street fund \$13,275.63; COVID relief fund \$699.81; and \$25,267.20 held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

She also provided information on the results of the \$10 Discount cards distributed to CVIA members for use at eleven Cole Valley Restaurants. Although only 20 percent were actually used, restaurant owners were united in expressing their appreciation—some repeatedly. After those coupons were redeemed, CVIA still had a balance of \$700 to continue help.

■ Motion approved not to solicit annual contribution from Cole Street Merchants for daily street cleaning due to loss of revenue during the pandemic.

Joan also submitted the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, which was discussed at length and approved.

■ Motion passed unanimously to add \$400 from to the merchant assistance project's remaining amount so that each restaurant will receive a check for \$100 from the members of CVIA to help them through this difficult time.

■ Communications chair Breana Wheeler said that CVIA had begun issuing a three-part notification (stamp on front of newsletter) for delinquent dues: The first at one month, the second at nine months, and a "last issue" message at 12 months. For the emailed version: one for those with delinquent dues up to 12 months; a "last-issue" notice for those over 12 months; and one for those up-to-date. She again encouraged us to confine our day-to-day CVIA communication to the SLACK platform.

■ Lena Emmerly reported that Park Station Captain Chris Pedrini has dismissed three members of the Community Police Advisory Board and is looking for new members. She also noted that there was a ten percent upswing in auto burglaries in the Park District in which Hondas and Toyotas seemed to be targeted.

■ Captain Pedrini announced that the Mayor had asked for a 7.5 percent reduction in the SFPD budget meaning layoffs for 167 officers as well as 43 civilian employees.

■ Marianne Hesse noted that both the Saturday Haight Ashbury Food Pantry and the 6-day-a-weekday Food Runners program are operating at full speed at the Waller Center. The Food Runners create as many as 1500 balanced meals a day from excess food and distribute them to various places in the city. The venerable Haight Ashbury Food Program provides shopping bags of groceries in a farmers' market or "pantry" setting each Saturday afternoon. (You can volunteer to help at dispatcher@foodrunners.org or register in person at the Food Pantry 1525 Waller Street on any Saturday between noon and 2 p.m.)

■ Chuck Canepa noted that the developers of 730 Stanyan had circulated a poll asking for opinions on building colors and tree placement while ignoring all the substantive concerns that had been expressed over the course of four community meetings, insulting the intelligence of participants.

■ After long discussion and lack of agreement, Board decided not to take a stand on the presence of the SkyStar Wheel in Golden Gate Park.

■ Vote on revised bylaws was tabled until the April Board meeting.

Adjourned 9:10 pm

Virtual Meeting on Zoom – April 5, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has \$12,942.20; Clean Cole Street fund \$13,084.84; and \$25,267.20 held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She also read messages of appreciation from Juliette Pries of Ice Cream Bar and Edwin Baba of Creola for the February discount cards.

■ Reporting on the Kezar Advisory Committee, Lena Emmerly said that SF Unified School District is considering using Kezar Stadium for high school graduations this June. If this happens, the running track will be protected.

■ Reporting on the Police Advisory Board, Lena said that Park Station is still running understaffed. And also that SF SAFE has a number of free garage locks. Contact info@sfsafe.org

■ Motion approved: To give a \$1,500 grant to the Sutro Stewards. (Last year we gave them \$1000 and with matching grants they netted \$2,000.)

■ Joan Downey, reporting on the last SFWTAC meeting, said that affinity groups continue to battle over the prohibition of automobile traffic on JFK Drive. Those representing the Museums want the availability of drop-off and on-street parking for visitors, whereas the bicycle-skating community wants it car-free for recreational use. The obvious answer—lowering the prices in the parking garage with free spaces for those with ADA placards—is not so simple. Garage prices are not under the control of Rec and Park, but rather a management company—the Concourse Authority. Additionally, any changes in parking rates or conditions must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Some are demanding that jurisdiction be transferred to the SFMTA so the city has more direct control.

■ Motion approved: After lengthy discussion, reviewing each section and sub-section, the Board approved new Bylaws, updating and simplifying the original document approved in 2002 and originally written in 1989. These will be posted on the CVIA website and voted on by the membership at its annual meeting in September or whenever it is safe to hold it. There are no substantive changes.

Adjournment 9:15 pm

Virtual Meeting on Zoom – May 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has \$14,894.20; Clean Cole Street fund \$12,137.05; and \$25,267.20 held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Lena Emmerly reported that Bradley Woehl, owner of

American Cyclery (Stanyan and Frederick), for whose proposed parklet CVIA is fiscal sponsor, is applying for the Legacy Business Registry. As the oldest operating bike shop in the city, it could be eligible for grants pending availability of city funds. Woehl is also working with his architect to modify the proposed parklet design in order to reduce the estimated \$50,000 cost, meaning that we may see action on that corner sooner than once thought.

■ Discussed board members failure to use the SLACK platform for sharing topic-related information rather than email in which it can sometimes get lost. Tom Hubbard suggested any communication requiring group feedback begin with "Response Requested."

■ Lena announced that the largest SF high schools have definitely decided to hold graduation ceremonies at Kezar Stadium. Smaller schools will graduate at the former McAteer High School campus. Middle school ceremonies will still be virtual. The two-hour ceremonies will be staggered over three days, June 1 to June 3, with disinfection between events. Schools are fundraising to be able to erect large screens at the ceremonies to provide close-up images of the graduates and live-streaming for those at home. For a schedule for all high school graduations go to sfusd.edu/2021graduation.

■ Discussed at length the continued car-free closing of JFK Drive, an issue dividing GG Park neighbors and which, more recently, has inflated into a city-wide debate on who is most effected and social equity. The Board is no different. Conflicting opinion resulted only in the agreement that CVIA would take no formal position. (See article on page 5)

■ Motion approved: To support Supervisor Mandelman's legislation "A Place for All" expanding safe sleeping sites around the city. Only when everybody has an alternative to sleeping on the sidewalk can they be legally asked to move. It is a both a humanitarian and practical stopgap policy until permanent housing can be provided. President Carole Glosenger to send letter.

■ Discussed at length the extension of SkyStar Wheel in the Golden Gate Park Concourse. Joan reviewed historic precedents, jurisdiction and fiscal needs created by the pandemic. Board eventually concentrated its concern on the effects of the large generator used for power. Tom Hubbard agreed to investigate the reality and any viable alternative.

■ Board noted with sadness the recent passing of Roger Soudah's father, Raji Soudah. Roger, the owner of Café Reverie and Say Cheese, is a longtime and generous supporter of the Cole Valley community. Carole to send condolence from CVIA.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm

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

Visit our website at
CVIASF.org

Coping With Covid

Now that there seems to be somewhat of a light at the end of the tunnel regarding San Francisco's sheltering-in-place edict necessitated by the year long pandemic, CVIA's board members have become curious as to how our members might have fared during these long months and would love to hear from you regarding ways that you have found to cope. We've particularly interested in learning how our neighbors with young children at home have been able to retain both their sanity, as well as keep everyone on a somewhat even keel.



Photo: Lisa Penner

To keep the family healthy one ingenious Haight family created their own gym.

Lisa and Sam have three young active and athletic children, Arthur (12), Ivan (9) and Opal (7), so they decided to take the bull by the horns and created both an indoor and backyard Ninja Gym in order for their children to remain active, healthy and happy.

Please let us know how you've coped this past year and we'll add your thoughts and/or images to our next newsletter. Send to CVIASF@aol.com.

—Marianne Hesse

Spoilsports Rule Again on Four-Twenty

You may have noticed cops posted at the east entrance



Traditionalists line up for cannabis at Berner's on 4/20.

to the Park (Stanyan and Haight) and along JFK Drive a few weeks ago. Not remembering the date, I asked one officer what was up. She said it was "April 20th and some people like to go into the park... mumble, mumble, mumble."



it dawned on me that it was Four-Twenty. I was reminded again when I saw a long line in front of Berner’s on Haight Street. People may not have been partying in the Park, but they were partying somewhere.

Chief Bill Scott did not mince words. In spite of the legalization of pot, it is still verboten to smoke in public places, the rule is usually put aside on one day a year. But for the last two years, large gatherings of any kind have been prohibited. Said Scott, “Anyone hoping for a party will be disappointed—Robin Williams Meadow and Hippie Hill will be fenced off and inaccessible. The SFPD and the SF Park Rangers will be patrolling the area, dispersing large gatherings and telling illegal vendors to leave.” So, for the second year, our neighborhood was spared the traffic congestion, crowds, and the heavy fragrance of skunk, but also denied the secret pride that we live in a city that would permit us to break both a state and city law, even if its only once a year.

—Karen Crommie

Postscripts

To those living near the iconic corner who have repeatedly asked the police to do something about the all-day camping, **Christin Evans**, chair of the **Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA)** wrote, “The storefront at the corner of Haight & Ashbury won’t



be vacant much longer. **Robert Emmons** from **SF Mercantile** has leased the space from **SF Heritage**. My understanding is that he’ll be moving in [soon]. In the meantime I know SFPD has increased their presence at that corner based on the landlord and neighboring merchants’ request.”

Breaking news: “The start of construction on the affordable housing project on the site of the former **McDonald’s** will be **delayed by as much as a year** due to a redesign and state financing issues. The project at 730 Stanyan, previously proposed as a six-story building with 120 units, will now be designed as an **eight-story building with about 150 units**,” reported the **Examiner** on May 12. “The change is in part because the City came into additional funding through savings on other projects and federal recovery funds that allowed the project scale to increase, according to the **Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development**” How galling, after all those meetings, suddenly the developers are issuing a fiat irrespective of neighborhood wishes. Maybe they had planned the taller building all along and were just humoring us.

The steps leading from the Muni Park tunnel up to Clayton Street has long had a painting of a penguin on its wall. Then, beside it, a baby penguin arrived. When some jerk recently graffitied it with “No more street art bullshit,” the artist, who signs himself as “**fnch**,” was not deterred and, for the enjoyment of all, painted in its place a bright red (what else?) finch. Beside his name the artist has written, “In memory of

the penguins.” But recently fnch has been blasted on social media for the ubiquity of his honey bear graffiti. Who knew that the little bear could evoke such vitriol? Put “fnch honey bears” into your browser to review the teapot tempest. Sad or funny? Take





With his unfailing generosity, Cole Valley’s **Craig Newmark** gave a \$100,000 matching grant to **KQED** during this month’s fundraising drive. “Beyond supporting high quality news, Newmark has taken an active role against bogus political information,” said **Pierre Bienamié** in **Digiday**. “It’s no coincidence that [Craig] created his philanthropic foundation in 2016 when Russia tampered with the U.S. Presidential election.”

There’s an incongruous but very welcome new shop on the corner of Haight and Masonic. The houseplant store called **SF Mellow** is obviously well-financed, with a very corporate website at themellowsf.com. It is fully stocked with a variety of plants reminiscent of the 60s. Painted Frida Kahlo blue (Casa Azul) the building is inviting, with an array of cut flowers at its entrance. **SF Mellow** has another shop on 21st Street in the Mission.





The invitation (opposite) was in **Supervisor Dean Preston’s** April newsletter encouraging D-5 residents to march on May 1st with the **Democratic Socialists of America** to reenact a 1934 march up Market Street followed by a rally at Civic Center. “It’s a celebration you can’t miss,” wrote Preston. But I’m sure a few did.

—Karen Crommie

Letters

Dear CVIA,

I am wondering whether anything is being done about the daily gathering of young men without masks, occupying the sidewalk on the northwest corner of Ashbury and Haight (formerly Haight Ashbury T-shirts). They are often sitting on chairs, often accompanied by dogs, sometimes sharing a bottle of wine, sometimes offering unsolicited comments to passersby. I have been greeted with “cannabis cures covid” or, yesterday, as I was crossing the street, “hey, old man,” (I am 77). I avoid the corner as best I can, but we live in the 700 block of Ashbury, a block and half from Gus’s, and we enjoy walking on Page Street. During the pandemic, we switched our shopping destination to Luke’s Local, further but safer in terms of mask compliance. Because of the many empty stores on Haight Street and clear neighborhood preferences for unsatisfied shopping destinations, it would seem a priority to address this problem.

Brian & Betty Katcher

Ed. note: CVIA forwarded this letter to the office of Supervisor Dean Preston and received this response:

Thanks for reaching out to the office with your concern. I’m sorry you’ve been having this experience, masks are definitely a crucial part of keeping each other safe during the pandemic. I have reached out to our liaison at the Homeless Youth Alliance, an organization that has longstanding relationships with many of the people on Haight Street, and asked them to remind these individuals to wear their masks.

Gwen [McLaughlin]
prestonstaff@sfgov.org

Dear CVIA,

Thank you for reprinting my article on the Heron Lady, it’s good to know it has “legs.” Your newsletter is really easy to read and well-written.

Judy Goddess
sfseniorbeat.com

Help

- Emergency911
- Disturbance415-553-0123
- Blocked Driveways415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Aging and Disability Services415-355-6700
- Health Department415-255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting415-554-0730

Mayor London Breed.....415-554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police William “Bill” Scott415-553-1551
SFPD
1245 Third Street
S.F., CA 94158

District Attorney Chesa Boudin.....628-652-4000
350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
S.F., CA 94103

Captain Christopher Pedrini415-242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Christopher.Pedrini@sfgov.org

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| 11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org | 415-554-6975 |

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 August 1, 2021 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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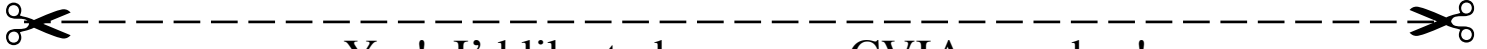
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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 _____

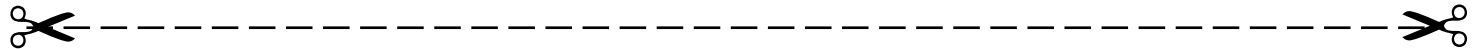
What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

Do NOT acknowledge my 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**