

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXVI

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2021

Well Done, Steve Schick

There's lots of action at the Kezar Bar and Restaurant, corner of Cole and Carl. At the end of May, it was announced that founder and original owner Steve Schick would be retiring after 32 years running the bar and restaurant. Before Kezar, Steve was the owner of the charming Ironwood eatery from 1980 to 1993 located across the street in the current Padrecito space. So he has certainly put in his time bringing hospitality and style to the corners of Cole and Carl. We wish Steve the best in his retirement, and thank



For over forty years, Steve was the reigning host of Cole Valley.

him for repeatedly making the restaurant available for CVIA's annual Summer Social.

Steve's business partner at Kezar since September 2018, Jim Angelus, who also owns nearby Bacon Bacon, will be taking over the day to day operations with some new silent partners from

the neighborhood. Their first order of business is an apparently hardy remodel. The restaurant closed on Friday, July 30 for a "few months" for that to take place. We're looking forward to the Fall reopening, hoping to see some updates mixed with that old Kezar character as we belly back up to the bar.

—Chris Hock

"Flower Piano" Returns to Botanical Garden on Sept. 17

San Francisco Botanical Garden and Sunset Piano are excited to present one of the most unique, creative, and innovative events in the Bay Area. After five successful years, and a pause in 2020 due to the pandemic, they are enthusiastically bringing back Flower Piano to transform San Francisco Botanical Garden once again into the city's own alfresco concert hall where everyone is invited to play and listen. It's a delight to discover the talent among us. Flower Piano will continue until Sept. 21. For more information go to info@sfbg.org or call 415-661-1316.



Former McDonald's Now Goes to Eight Stories

Letter From Developer of 730 Stanyan Street

The development of new housing, especially 100 percent affordable housing, is key to Mayor Breed's COVID-19 recovery strategy. Initially, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) directed the development team to design a six-story building to address concerns about increasing construction costs associated with additional units.



This earlier six storey design will be changed to accommodate 30 more units.

As new funding sources have recently become available, MOHCD has directed the development team, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC) to maximize the number of units at this site. In order to do this, the building's height will increase from six stories to eight stories.

The additional height would allow for 30 plus additional units, allowing the City to maximize affordable housing at this site. Our intention is to add units that fit the needs of underserved seniors in District 5. We will spend the next couple of months re-designing the building to an eight-story height while addressing the key design concerns communicated to us by the community during our previous meetings. With your continued support and interest, we will see you at our next Community Meetings on August 19 and 21 in order to share the updated design studies for community feedback.

Bo Han, Project Manager

Chinatown Community Development Center

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Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Because of the business climate this year, we have not asked Cole Valley merchants to 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 September 2020 to August 2021. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG (\$2500) Tracy and Patrick Jennings

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

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

Contributors (\$50 - 99): Kay Auciello, William Barnaby, Gina Bartlett, Travis Becker, Kathleen Bertram, Sharon Birnbaum, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Chris Broderick, Philip Brodey, Chantal Byrne, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Eugene Chen & Hayley Moore, Anna Coles, Joseph Creitz, Creola, Frances Dependahl, Matthew DuVall & Irene Jang, Shannon & Chris Hock, Harold & Lyn Isbell, Jessica Justino, Wallis & Michelle Lim, John & Bahereh Manning, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Bill O'Such & Ineke Ruhland, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Michael Rafferty, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, William Rothrum & Katherine Bird, Jay Stevens, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Barbara Alexander, Susan Allen, Molly Barry, Estela Becerra, Karin de Brer, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Nick Fram, Glen and Melissa Gee, Mike & John Greenwood, Kevin Dede, Douglas Hall, Heather Hawker, Ethel Konopka, Lynn Kormondy, Robert Weaver & Connie Kullberg, Laura Lai, Steven Madrid, Richard Magary, Celia Price, Bill & Joanne Prieur, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Marie Samson, Iolanthe Stronger, Cynthia Travis, Deborah Van Atta, Edward C. Walls, Meredith White & Steve Cheng

Boosters (\$24 and below): Peter Scott Duyan, Beverley Epstein, Maryann Hrichak, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Katherine Klonizchii, John Priest, Shannon Riordan, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder

CVIA Position on 730 Stanyan

The following is a summary of CVIA's most recent letter to the Project Manager, Bo Han.

Those of us who attended all of the community presentations for 730 Stanyan were shocked to hear that, after all of your work and that of the neighborhood groups, the Mayor's office found a little more money and added two more floors! They simply disregarded the input of the neighborhood associations regarding the building height.

We absolutely object to eight stories. Eight stories for a whole block is totally unacceptable. Just because you can increase the number of units doesn't mean you should.

We also insist that you designate some apartments for the senior housing that was discussed when you held your first community meeting.

Having given much thought to the design so far presented, we feel that there should be three different buildings with open space facing the park. There are advantages to this kind of design. Interiors could be tailored to each population group— with senior units and the childcare facility in one building, families in another building, and the cafe, tech school and maintenance in a third building incorporating the units set aside for young people. Rather than cramming the most people possible into a single structure, let's use the extra funding now available to offer our residents a graceful complex of moderate height buildings—a showcase community in the heart of the Haight

*Carole Glosenger, President,
Cole Valley Improvement Association*

That Skinny House on Shrader

The site was a forgotten sliver, 94 feet long but only 10 feet wide, this meant interior spaces could only be 9 ft 2 inches wide. Architecture is about solving problems, how did it work? Park a car in the front courtyard and the driver's door determines that the front door will be on the left. Meters and trash cans must be hidden on the right

How to avoid the feeling of living in a corridor? Keep the eye busy. Seismic frames necessary to support the tall



narrow building were painted Golden Gate Red, providing punctuation marks. Surfaces were finished in rich burl woods. Perforated stainless formed the stair allowing the eye to wander. Daylight came not just from the ends but from operable skylights and small property line windows. Obscure glass surrounding the bathroom turned to clear above head height.

A room's size is also judged by how it sounds. To avoid reverberation, sound absorbing materials were hidden behind floating ceilings. The rooms both looked and sounded bigger than they were.

The house (1415 Shrader) sold to the first person that looked at it. At his house warming I counted 50 people scattered through the four levels and garden of this 750 square foot home, and it hardly seemed crowded.

Excerpted from the architect's website at Ira Kurlander.com

Haight Street Storefronts Begin Filling In

Before the pandemic started, Haight Street was already at a record high of 21 storefront vacancies. Rising costs including skyrocketing rents, payroll and other costs coincided with four years of disruptive street construction making it a tough go for many shopkeepers. Notable closures in that time included the 40 year-old Haight Ashbury Music Center, Carlos' Shoe Repair, and Kids Only.

So when the pandemic forced doors to close and the plywood went up, there was a period when it looked like many more Haight businesses wouldn't survive. By March 2021, a year from the first shelter-in-place order, there were 32 storefront vacancies (about a fifth of them between Stanyan and Central). Many of the pandemic closures were clothing stores such as Haight Ashbury T-Shirts, Static and Crossroads Trading Company, which struggled to meet rent obligations after a significant drop in sales.

But as local retail is inching out of its pandemic funk, and restaurants and bars are expanding service, vacant storefronts are beginning to fill in. Here are some notable new businesses:



• Haight & Ashbury, 1500 Haight. We lost Haight Ashbury T-Shirts at the corner of Haight and Ashbury, but we gained a vibrant new shop called (what else?) "Haight & Ashbury." Owner Robert Emmons describes it as

"a welcome center and counter-culture museum shop." They recently installed a fresh flower rack on the Ashbury side of the building.

• The Mellow, 1401 Haight, a hip shop with a variety of house plants and their accoutrements. This is the second location after their first one opened in 2020 in the Mission.



• Psychedelic Art Gallery, 1399 Haight, now has a mural on the walls outside this visible location at the corner of Haight and Masonic. Sure to appeal to tourists and locals alike.

• Brioche Bakery & Cafe, 1640 Haight—this North Beach bakery and cafe has leased the spot previously occupied by Sparrow Restaurant which features a large backyard patio. Operated by husband-and-wife



team Naima Mountaim and Edson Garcia, you may be familiar with their other cafe in North Beach, the Brioche Bakery and Cafe. They serve baked goods and cafe fare, including salads and sandwiches.

The many vacancies have also led several long-term Haight businesses to look for opportunities to expand their footprint. Shops which have expanded include:



• Gus's Community Market, 1540 Haight, longtime residents celebrated to see Gus' family market thriving and expanding into its 3rd storefront adjacent to the current location. Renovations are planned for the space which previously operated as the Haight Ashbury Music center for four decades so the expansion is unlikely to be completed until 2022.

• Buffalo Exchange, 1553 Haight, the second-hand clothing store has expanded into the space previously occupied by shoe store Anthem. With the new space, they've created a buyers counter for folks seeking to sell or trade items.

• Indigo Vintage, 1645 Haight, the Berkeley-based cooperative opened at the corner of Haight & Belvedere in 2019. They've expanded into the storefront adjacent which was previously occupied by Teckspeen cell phone repair shop




Also to note: Second Act Clothing has started construction at its location at 1560 Haight, formerly occupied by Braindrops and Diamond Supply Company. The pandemic delayed the Japanese retailers conditional use hearing but the company has since received the necessary permits to open its first San Francisco location later this year.

—Christin Evans

Call for News

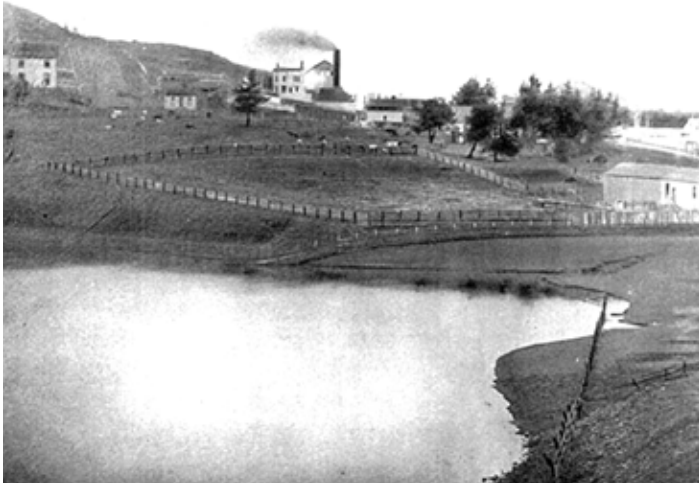
We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com



All Begins with a Pond

Cole Valley used to have a pond, right in the middle. The area around this pond was largely given to farmland. Cole Valley has a relatively temperate microclimate, with neither extreme highs nor lows, and some, but not too much, fog from the bay. Those trends are remarkably con-

Photo: Foundsf.org



The oldest photo of Cole Valley was taken circa 1892.

sistent from April to late November, making for a longer farming season and rich soil. Cole Valley was a tempting place to live, and Cole Valley real estate was in relatively high demand, but it was prohibitively far from the city center, and residents began to agitate for a solution.

The N Judah Light Rail

Through the early 1920s, residents lobbied for a new streetcar service to what were then considered the “Outside Lands” including Cole Valley. There were rather roundabout transit lines, but a direct route was called for. In 1925, work began on the Duboce Tunnel route. Today, those lines are still in service, and the N-Judah light rail train still stops right in the heart of Cole Valley’s business district.

In 1928, the Sunset Tunnel, at Carl and Cole, was opened and Cole Valley real estate skyrocketed in demand. The tunnel, just under a mile long (4,232 feet) was a massive construction project, and was recently the recipient of \$23.3 million worth of seismic retrofits and renovations. However, the original superstructure remains.

Reclaiming Sutro Forest

Another recent reclamation and renovation project was undertaken throughout Sutro Forest. Most locals would agree that the forest is part of Cole Valley, rather than adjacent to it, but in either case, prime Cole Valley real estate borders more than 80 acres of ethereal wilderness space and hiking trails. The space was developed over a century ago, when the somewhat eccentric mayor, Adolf Sutro, planted a variety of non-native foliage, first at the horse stables at Stanyan Street, and eventually over much of the adjoining 900-foot hill.

Not all of that exotic foliage was for the best. The iconic eucalyptus trees fared well, but the ivy fared better. It has been generously described as “lush” but in practical terms, it and the blackberry brambles were suffocating the

local flora. The reclamation efforts began in earnest in the early 2000s, cutting back the more invasive species and local plants, some of which hadn’t been seen in the area since the 1950s, began to return in earnest.

—Danielle Lazier
daniellelazier.com

Ed. Note—Tank Hill, named for an old water tank stationed there in the late 1800s was planted with Eucalyptus trees after the attack on Pearl Harbor to hide the water tank from bombers. Later, a city plan to remove about 18,000 nonnative plants from San Francisco public parks over a period of 20 years started tree wars, still going on, that spared those on Tank Hill as some residents accused Rec and Park of “plant fascism.” (sfist.com)

Kathleen M. Bertram
August 17, 1920 - June 8, 2021

Longtime CVIA member Kathleen “Kay” Bertram died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. She was 100 years old, having been born to her immigrant parents Archibald McAllister and Kathleen Mulholland McAllister in Montclair, New Jersey.

When World War II broke out, she worked at the War Production Board as her way of contributing to the national effort. In 1943, she joined the American Red Cross, crossing the Atlantic on a



troop ship menaced by U-boats, but safely reaching the United Kingdom. She worked to support both the American military and local communities in Swindon and London, where she was thrown from her bed one night by a V-2 rocket exploding. During her time there, she was able to visit

grandparents and other relatives in both Scotland and Ireland. With the allied victory, she crossed the English Channel to continue her work in occupied Germany. Although still helping to support our country’s troops, her work also focused heavily on assisting war refugees, especially children, from across eastern Europe.

She spent the last month of her life under hospice care calm and serene, living in the moment and enjoying visits from friends and family in her Carl Street home. A funeral mass was held at St. Agnes Church on June 14th. A private burial followed alongside her beloved husband of 51 years, Jack Bertram, in Golden Gate National Cemetery.

Gus's Market Expands Again

The newest expansion of the Gus's grocery chain is to double the size of its Haight Street market. Formerly Haight Ashbury Produce, the sons of founder Gus Vardakastanis seem to be following the steps of the Calla brothers in establishing a group of San Francisco markets that are setting the standard for shoppers and raising the bar for other stores. Fearlessly, they decided to enlarge and upgrade Haight Ashbury Produce at a time when Whole Foods was opening just four blocks away. In the middle of the pandemic when many people were ordering online, they chose to reimagine their Noriega Produce into a nearby location with more space and a wider, more upscale selection of foods to better serve the outer Sunset neighborhood.

The family's story in the city starts with Gus's father Dimitri, who immigrated here in 1974. With little English,



Photo: Facebook.com

Bobby and Dimitri Vardakastanis are joint general managers of a growing Gus's San Francisco grocery chain.

he worked in neighborhood grocery stores. Seven years later, he and his son Gus had saved the money they needed to open their own store. Haight Ashbury Produce opened in 1981 on 1615 Haight Street, and immediately became a neighborhood staple. Four years later, in 1985, the family opened their second store, this time in the Outer Sunset, between 44th and 45th Avenue, on Noriega Street. Appropriately named Noriega Produce, it became another area institution. In 2011, they achieved another dream, and expanded their Haight location to include full-service meat and deli departments, as well as a coffee bar. Haight Ashbury Produce became Haight Street Market and then, at the insistence of his two sons Dimitri and Bobby, Gus's. They borrowed money that exceed their mother Georgia's comfort zone but they knew what they were doing.

In late 2015, they opened Gus's Market at 17th St. and Harrison in the Mission. In late 2018, they opened Gus's Market at 4th St. and Channel in the Mission Bay district. In their website they say, "We know folks who have met their future spouses in our aisles. Times may change, but our markets remain consistent and stable, a place of sustenance, community and care." And they mean it. It's rare when a Cole Valley/Haight event is not the recipient of a donation from Gus's.

—Karen Crommie

UCSF Tightens New Hospital

Finally, a win for community members who have been fighting UCSF's unilateral decision to break the Space Ceiling limits agreement of a maximum of 3.55 million square feet, established in 1976 and written into state law. The coalition, of which Calvin Welch and I are members, supports retaining the Space Ceiling and the 2014 Long Range Development Plan's smaller new hospital.

UCSF was proceeding on its plans to build an out-of-scale 300 foot tall, 15 story new hospital. UCSF is now modifying its plans to build a narrower building that doesn't cross Medical Center Way, and is retrofitting the existing Moffitt Hospital for beds on the top two floors (14th and 15th), plus other planned facilities are now planned to move



UCSF no longer plans to cross Medical Center Way with the expansion.

to the existing Moffitt Hospital. UC had previously said retrofitting Moffitt was out of the question. This is a win for the communities surrounding UCSF and HANC members working on the hospital enlargement and space ceiling issues.

Now we can ask more questions about how best to utilize the retrofitted Moffitt Hospital, UCSF's projected needs, and perhaps shrink the new hospital height. UCSF says 3,000 people are turned away each year now. Since that's less than ten a day, on average, it's not such a staggering number, and can be accommodated within the more limited space now planned and without the massive expansion previously planned.

—Tes Wellborn

Park Branch Library Reopens

It wasn't the first branch library to have a post-Covid reopening, nor the second, third or fourth. But finally the doors have opened and the hours are now **Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 5:30 pm**. No open evenings yet. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Park Branch first opened on October 29, 1909, and is the oldest existing San Francisco Public Library building.



Designed by the McDougall Brothers, Park Branch was built with City funds: \$7,000 for the land, \$27,000 for the building.

Park Station Cops Host Night Out

We are all still glowing in the aftermath of a successful National Night Out in the Park District on August 3. If you missed it, I highly recommend that you come out for the annual event next August.



Acting Captain Kevin Lee greets CVIA Board member David Crommie at National Night Out.

Due to the pandemic we were not able to host National Night Out last year so we were all excited to get out and see people this year at the event. Fortunately it was a beautiful evening. Many thanks to the Park Station Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB), especially Mark Scheuer (and his cohorts at Friends of Duboce Park) and Tricia Stauber who spearheaded much of the planning for this event. Park Station's own, Therese Tacchini, was also instrumental in putting this evening together for the community.

An exciting evening was had the Harvey Milk Center in Duboce Park. SFPD was joined by several city agencies including SF SAFE (Thank you Kyra Worthy and staff!), SFDA, UCSF PD, CHP, SF Park and Rec, ACC, NERT, SF ALERT, SF Park Rangers. Sutro Towers, Muttville, and AT&T joined in and Peet's supplied coffee for the event. Park and Rec provided the community with a mobile skate park that the kids really enjoyed. Thank you. One last thank you to Gus's Community Market for donating food for the community event. Apologies if I have forgotten anybody, it really took a lot of work and help from the community to make this event happen. Thank you all so much for participating and, if you couldn't make it, we will see you next year!



State Assemblyman David Chiu addresses neighbors at the annual event.

—Acting Captain Kevin Lee

Ed.Note: A special thank-you to CVIA delegate to the Park Station Advisory Committee, Lena Emmerly, who, assisted by Chuck Canepa, worked tirelessly distributed snacks all evening.

Local Authors' Issue Memoir

Most Cole Valley folks know longtime neighbors Jack and Gay Reineck from their guidebooks—Map & Guide to Golden Gate Park, SF Bike Map & Walking Guide and the Haight Ashbury Map & Guide. But now they're looking back to when their love of travel and maps really began. Only months after meeting in 1971, the two young designers decided to outfit a VW van and begin a trip of 25,000 miles. Their new book is a travel diary but also a journey of discovery and personal memoir. Titled "Van Living 1971: Designing a Life," it's for sale at Booksmith, SF Mercantile, Cole Hardware and elsewhere around town.

Miracle on Stanyan

The eastern edge of Golden Gate Park along Stanyan Street from Waller to JFK Drive is looking mighty fine these days. This part of the park is also a small piece of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (ridgetrail.org). It is great to see so many people leisurely enjoying the space. The new trails in the Oak Woodland hill offer views of Alvard Lake and Tunnel that were never appreciated before. The Exploratorium has installed several informative and engaging exhibits along some of the pathways and the lakelet. You can greet a passerby in the High Five Zone as you enter from Stanyan Street.



An abandoned restroom converted to Flywheel's outdoor cafe contributed greatly to the upgrade.

Stop to discover iron ore that has migrated from the Sierras to Ocean Beach. Contemplate one of the quotes on a circular bench as you enjoy the pastoral surroundings. The bocce courts are a very popular space. If it is not a group of neighbors socializing and rolling the balls in friendly competition, there may be toddlers running off their energy in a



With new lush grass, Stanyan Meadow is used by a variety of groups from Zanshin Dojo to Red Umbrellas.

safe space. The handicap accessible, all-gender bathroom is a welcome addition. The plaza outside of the Flywheel kiosk finds folks enjoying the beverages and pastries. Picnic blankets are being spread on the newly sodded lawns. Bicycles can be rented on the weekends through the Parkwide rental (parkwide.com). Zanshin Dojo, the martial arts school at 640 Stanyan, has taken their lessons to either the shaded lawns by the kiosk or in the newly graded Stanyan Meadow. July 31 and August 1 welcomed the return of the Red Umbrellas, a local artist cooperative (redumbrellas.com) that also provided live music both days. There is lot happening in this part of the park.

The other thing that is always happening is the return of the weeds and suckers. **That is why on the fourth Saturday of each month, a call for volunteers goes out to help the gardeners maintain the beauty of this space.** To sign up, refer to the SF Rec and Park volunteer calendar (secure.force.com/SFRPDCalendar). Scroll through the schedule until you find "Golden Gate Park Alvard Lake" or do a search in the filter area for District 1. Click on the individual or group sign-up buttons. Attendance is limited so sign-up early to be sure to save yourself a spot. **Our next habitat restoration will be August 28 from 10 am until noon.** Please wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine. All supplies, tools, and gloves are provided by Rec and Park but if you have your own, feel free to bring them. Meet at the plaza located at the Haight and Stanyan entrance to Golden Gate Park.

—Susan Strolis

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Chris Pedrini holds community forums the fourth Thursday of every month (except December) from 6:00 to 7:00 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 being held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller). Or join the meeting via Zoom. To register go to: <https://bit.ly/ParkCommMtgAugust2021>



August 26, September 23, October 28.
Mark Your Calendar

UCSF Searching for a New Location for Zakheim Murals

A UCSF task force has been formed to recommend a publicly accessible, permanent site for New Deal-era murals that will be carefully removed from a seismically vulnerable building on its Parnassus Heights campus.

The murals, entitled "The History of Medicine in California," are a series of 10 panels painted in fresco style by Polish-born artist Bernard Zakheim in the late 1930s. After issuing a request for proposals from historic preservation experts, the University selected ARG Conservation Services for the delicate task of removing the aging murals, which were painted directly onto the walls of Toland Hall auditorium, within the 104-year-old UC Hall building. The murals will be removed because the building does not meet today's seismic safety codes and is scheduled for demolition, to be replaced by a state-of-the-art research and academic building as one of the first projects to revitalize its century-old Parnassus Heights campus.



From left to right: F. Stanley Durie, William E. Carter, Phyllis Wrightson, Joseph Allen, and Bernard Zakheim. 1939.

City Hall Marks Completion of Haight Street Improvements

Mayor London Breed joined city leaders, merchants, and community members at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 28 to celebrate the completion of the Upper Haight Transit Improvement and Pedestrian Realm Project. It took two-years and cost \$22.3 million but vastly improves pedestrian safety and transit efficiency.

"The Haight has a rich history that attracts tourists and locals alike, and with the completion of this streetscape project, we are making this historic neighborhood more in-



Mayor London Breed, with members of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association and others, mark the end of Haight Street renovation.

viting for all," said Mayor Breed. "As we emerge from this pandemic and begin to see our city come alive again, it's critical that we invest in the cultural vibrancy of our neighborhoods and provide our small businesses with the support they need to help drive our economic recovery." (See article by Christin Evans on page 3.)

The project was designed to incorporate numerous safety features, including new pedestrian-scale lighting, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and expanded bus-boarding areas. The project also replaced the aging sewer system to bolster resiliency, repaved seven blocks of Haight Street between Stanyan Street and Central Avenue, and added new street trees and sidewalks to beautify the neighborhood. Crews performed additional sewer and repaving work on Masonic Avenue between Haight and Waller streets.

Restore the 43 Masonic Route

CVIA president Carole Glosenger wrote the SF Municipal Transit Agency's director, Jeffrey Tumlin, asking for the restoration of the full 43 Masonic bus route. The following are excerpts from that letter:

The Cole Valley Improvement Association, representing more than 400 households in the greater Haight Ashbury, wants the full route of the 43 Masonic restored as soon as possible. The 43 allows us to take public transportation to the Presidio's Crissy Field, YMCA, Disney Museum, and to the many art and cultural events at Fort Mason. Without this convenient bus route, it's easier to drive rather than take up to three transfers to get to our destinations. It is also a considerable loss for students at Marina Middle School and other schools along the route. Please restore the full route of the 43 Masonic from Munich and Geneva to Fort Mason.

Join us in encouraging MTA to restore the 43 by contacting the director at Jeffrey.Tumlin@SFMTA.com and to the Citizen's Advisory Council at CAC@SFMTA.com.

Photo: sfbayca.com

Photo: calisphere.org

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 — May 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

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

■ Lena Emmery 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.

■ 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 become a city-wide debate on who is most effected and social equity. The CVIA Board is no different. Difference of opinion resulted only in the agreement that CVIA would take no formal position.

■ 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

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

Guests: Kenny Montilla, Director of PR for Cruise, Michael Campbell, PR manager and Tony Le, Accessibility Manager.

■ Since Joan Downey was on vacation, the May treasurer's report will be combined with June and will be submitted at the July 5 meeting.

■ Lena Emmery reported that, at the last C-PAB meeting, Park Station Captain Chris Pedrini discussed the upcoming National Night Out coming up on August 3.

■ Tom Hubbard reported his findings on the use of a diesel generator operating the SkyStar Wheel currently erected in the Golden Gate Park Concourse and the apparent financial loss to the City.

■ Presentation by Kenny Montilla on the development of Cruise technology with autonomous vehicles using their "First-Gen-AV" on the foundation of the Chevy Bolt. (See getcruise.com for details) When Montilla asked CVIA to use Cruise as a "community resource," Tom Hubbard suggested we have a demo as part of the CV Fair's car show in 2022. To be decided at a later time.

■ Discussed the annual CVIA general membership meeting, usually held in the Summer. Decided to postpone decision until the July meeting pending course of the pandemic.

■ Chuck Canepa reported that UCSF has responded to neighborhood complaints (reported here for the last year) about the extension of its Parnassus campus. (See article on page 5.)

■ Members were saddened to hear that new professional opportunities will require valued colleague Breana Wheeler to leave the Board on August 15. She has expertly managed CVIA's online communications and spent many hours introducing new and improved systems to the organization. We will be forever in her debt.

Adjourned: 8:35 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom) – August 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$12,271.03, with \$10,343.68 held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Karen Crommie announced the upcoming 2-part community meetings (#5) on the development of 730 Stanyan Street held by the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), on Zoom August 19, and another on August 21 at the 730 Stanyan site.

■ Board decided to keep using the SLACK app for discussion and email for simple announcements, such as meeting agenda.

■ Agreed to send a letter to SFMTA complaining about the apparent stall on resuming the established route of the 43 Masonic to Fort Mason. Joan to write.

■ Joan reported that the SF Westside Advisory Transportation and Accessibility Coalition has been dissolved for the present time. The group was examining the impact of closed streets on attendance at Golden Gate Park's concourse institutions.

■ Discussed the annual CVIA general membership meeting, usually held in the Summer. Decided not to hold it due to the continuation of the pandemic.

■ Breana Wheeler generously offered to give a tutorial on Google Workspace on Friday, August 6.

■ Approved purchase of stamps for the next two newsletters.

■ Decided that first in-person meeting of the Board will be the annual Holiday Dinner on December 6, assuming Covid restrictions permit.

■ Agreed that with the departure of Breana Wheeler we will look for a CVIA member who is tech savvy to join the board.

Adjourned: 8:35 pm

Postscripts

Comedy Day in the Park is September 19. Looking for a good belly ache—and not from eating too much? Comedy



Day in the Park is a free event that will take place from 12 pm to 5 pm at **Sharon Meadow**. Alongside some of San Francisco's funniest, the occasional secret guest takes the time to

make an appearance. You will be treated to 40 comedians within this five-hour stretch.

* * *

On September 11-12, there will be a **Native Plants Sale** at the **Botanical Garden**. The best time of year to plant California natives is in the fall and a variety of perennials, succulents and shrubs will be on offer.



* * *



The Dome Is Back. **Morrison Planetarium** has now reopened. To maximize staff and guest safety, reservations are required and capacity is limited. NightLife with its outdoor bars is going strong. See creatures of the night—40,000 different animals. For reservations (+21 yrs) go to calacademy.org and follow the prompts.

* * *

Charles Fracchia, founder of the **San Francisco Historical Society**, died peacefully on August 10. One of San Francisco's most respected historians,



Charles gave countless gifts to the city he loved. He was the author of 17 books and, for more than 25 years, served as Publisher of the historical journal **The Argonaut** and quarterly newsletter **Panorama**.

* * *

The Mt. Sutro Stewards are mourning **Dan Schneider**, a founding member, who died last month while riding his bike in Sonoma. Born in 1964, Dan was part of the core group of volunteer workers who restored trails on the East Ridge, North Ridge, Edgewood and in the Interior Greenbelt along with Rec and Park. Dan was an early advocate for

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



Very rarely does someone come along with a heart as big as an ocean. Grant was one of those people. He held us together with his endless capacity of love and kindness. He walked through the world with compassion and reverence for every living being, from his Mane Attraction staff



to his clients and friends. There was nobody like him and we miss him terribly. RIP Big Daddy, hope you're playing your guitar with Jimi and the rest in the big unknown. We love you. Donations in his honor can be made to Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly.

CVIA Officers

- President.....Carole Glosenger
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- Media Outreach..... Chris Hock
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Special ProjectsJoan Downey
- Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

a Youth in Nature program, Native Plant Nursery and Crew Leader Training. Dan's vision included establishing the Historical Trail, the first legal single track for mountain biking in San Francisco. **Craig Dawson**, Founder and Senior Program Advisor of the Stewards, recalls that by 2009 Dan had established the **SF Urban Riders** in hopes of expanding off-road bicycle access in other city parks and open spaces. SF Urban Riders and the Suro Stewards are planning a public memorial in the Fall. As a way to remember all the people whose lives Dan touched, the Stewards are collecting stories. Please submit your story of how you interacted with Dan to RememberingDan@Sfurbanriders.org.



Photo: Suro Stewards

* * *

The venerable **Golden Gate Park Band** is having an **Irish Cultural Celebration** on Sunday, September 19 from 1:00 to 2:45 pm. Is it because of the Summer Solstice, a bank holiday in Ireland? Who knows. But it should be a grand affair. Bring a lunch and appropriate beverages to the **Band Concourse** to toast the ole sod and its many San Francisco sons and daughters.



* * *

Janette Wu announced that **Russ Cleaners** at 1515 Waller Street, a neighborhood institution for decades, shuttered on August 19. They are not, however leaving the cleaning business, but rather moving to 1952 Irving where they have taken over **Sundown Cleaners**. They will be greatly missed for their excellent service.



* * *

Lisa Zamarin recently announced the online publication of the **Cole Valley Business and Services Directory**. (Facebook: Cole Valley Biz 8.2021 version 1.) She thanked neighbors **Bill O'Such, Barry Roth, Renata Miller and Ilana Minkoff** for sharing their photos; and to all of the businesses that contributed.



If you know anyone who would like to be added to this di-

rectory in the future email details to visa@lzdesigns.net. Thanks to Lisa and contributors for supporting our Cole Valley businesses. For access join the "**Cole Valley, a Not-So-Secret SF Neighborhood**" Facebook group and click on Lisa's attachment.

* * *

Carol Glosenger was having lunch sitting in **Bambino's** parklet. "We were on the sidewalk next to the street. A woman pulled up, parked, and dashed into **Cole Cleaners**. She came out laden with plastic-wrapped shirts on hangers and told us that her husband, who was returning back to his office that morning, asked her 'what happened to all my shirts?' She had taken the shirts to the cleaners a year and a half ago when Covid took



hold and forgot about them." Do you have a Covid story? We'll print it in the next newsletter.

* * *

He did it again this month. **Mark Ulriksen** is a Cole Valley-based artist and illustrator whose instantly recognizable take on life has resulted in over 60 **New Yorker** magazine covers. After working for 13 years as a graphic designer and magazine art director, Mark went through a relatively early mid-life crisis and gave up a world of monthly deadlines for a world of weekly ones, pursuing a new career as a freelance illustrator and artist. Lucky for us.



* * *

Luke's Local gets the credit for the fortress-like parklet on Parnassus that makes all others look temporary. Rimmed with planters and immaculately maintained, Luke has created a beautiful new place to enjoy his deli offerings or just hang out.



* * *

* * *

On September 14 at 7:00 pm, **Booksmith** and **Berkeley Arts & Letters** are hosting the virtual launch for the inimitable **Mary Roach** and her new book **Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law**. She'll be in conversation with **Zach Weinersmith**, creator of **Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal** and author of the NYT bestselling popular science book, **Soonish**. Go to Booksmith.com for "tickets."



Letters

Dear CVIA,

The discussion of the Safe Sleeping Village at 730 Stanyan contains some inaccuracies. First, it implies that the site might not close in June, or that its occupants may relocate to the sidewalks. To the contrary, the site is closing, and all of its residents are being placed in either permanent or transitional housing. Second, the article states that the site has served as a home for 40 people. While it is correct that 40 was the maximum capacity of the site at any one time, over its life, the SSV it has moved 80 unhoused people off of the street and into housing. These details (1) matter, and (2) would have been shockingly easy for you have to verified before you went to “press.”

Joseph Creitz

Ed. Note: Joe included a generous check supporting CVIA’s Clean Cole Street project for which we are grateful.

Dear CVIA,

We were talking to our landlord and neighbor this weekend and both mentioned 43 Muni service to the Presidio/Marina isn’t planned to be restored until 2023, requiring them, and potentially other neighbors, to find [complicated] routes to the businesses there (specifically the YMCA and barber in this case). Muni is accepting suggestions, so I suggested we might ask the CVIA for advice on how to get the word out to neighbors, since you’re pros at it! Thanks for your ideas,

Lauren and Bill Lague

Ed. Note: See page 7 for a summary of CVIA’s August 4, 2021 letter to Director of Transportation Jeffrey Tumlin.

Dear CVIA,

First, bravo. I love reading your informative newsletter, the latest issue of which arrived today. I can’t, however, resist commenting on “Postscripts,” particularly some items that reflect a personal political point of view. I realize this is a neighborhood newsletter, not a broad-based journalistic endeavor, but gee, the tone in “news items” about the Stanyan project and Supervisor Preston’s invitation to a May Day march seem to me inappropriate. This said with all respect (and fondness) for author Karen Crommie, and with gratitude for all she has done for the neighborhood.

Leah Garchik

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers and do not imply the endorsement of CVIA. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before October 15, 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.

EditorKaren Crommie
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 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

Visit our website at
CVIASF.org

Help

- Emergency911
- Disturbance415-553-0123
- Blocked Driveways415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Aging and Disability Services415-355-6700
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 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police William “Bill” Scott415-553-1551
 SFPD
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District Attorney Chesa Boudin.....628-652-4000
 350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
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Captain Christopher Pedrini415-242-3000
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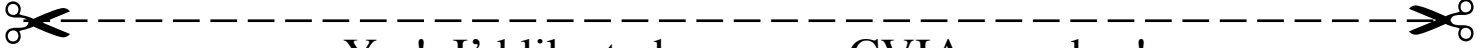
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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 _____

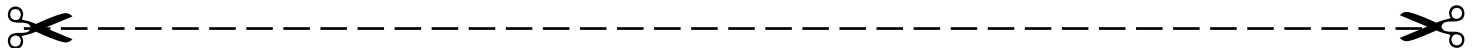
What I like about the neighborhood: _____

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**