

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXIV

SERVING RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND THE HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2020

## Safe Sleeping Village: Unintended Consequences

The big surprise is that the Safe Sleeping Village at the McDonald's site has been well-run and relatively



The northwest corner of Haight and Ashbury has become a consistent daytime gathering place. (Note: Norman Larson bequeathed the building to San Francisco Heritage in 2018.)

problem-free, but has had the unintended consequence of increasing the number of people and dogs with booze and drugs onto the street corners of the Haight during the daytime. There are still a few random tents on the sidewalks—presumably owned by those unqualified or too late to snag a site in the “village.” Supervisor Preston is deeming it a success. Those of us who live near Haight Street are not so sure.



Settling in at the former McDonald's: Tents to us—homes to them.

One thing is clear: People living in the tent village are grateful for having a stable place to be and are sharing it with pals. The small tents that initially filled the space have gradually been enlarged with canopies, and makeshift storage appendages, a sight that would soften the hardest heart. The residents are settling in, making “homes” out of nothing. It very clearly demonstrates the need for subsidized housing. Preston says they’ll be out in three months. This is doubtful.

*Continued on Page 2, Column 2*

## Pandemic Gives SFMTA Leeway to Move Ahead

The coronavirus shutdown has given San Francisco’s Municipal Transportation Agency an opportunity to carry out two plans it has long been eyeing. Both have been introduced as “temporary, due to Covid,” presumably to ally rancor from the fractious public. The first is a bike lane on Fell Street from Baker to Shrader, which you’ve no doubt noticed because it’s a bit tricky making a left on to Masonic. The second, is for “Emergency Bus Lanes” along several routes, notably the 43 Masonic, giving buses priority over other traffic.


### Fell Street Bike Lane

The Fell Street bike lane moves west-bound bicyclists, typically racing at velodrome speed, out of the north pan-handle path and on to the street. Sure, there’s grouching about



Left turning autos must use caution as they cross over the bike lane.

losing a car lane, but the increase in safety is obvious. The east-bound cyclists will still use the path but there’s talk of placing another bike lane on Oak Street to accommodate them.

Fell, a one-way street, has both northern and southern parking lanes. The southern lane has been moved away from the curb, with approximately 12 of the 136 parking spaces on that side removed. The spaces are needed to create 

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*SFMTA Moves Forward, continued.*

Image: SFMTA



Westbound Fell Street explained (left to right): bike lane, parking lane, three lanes of auto traffic, parking lane.

turning lanes and visibility zones. The protected bike-way then runs along the curb, with a three-foot access aisle to get to the parking spaces.

**43 Masonic Returns as a Temporary Emergency Lane**

Muni’s emergency lanes for busses are designed to speed travel time along key city routes. In our neighborhood it’s the 43 Masonic that has gotten the nod. Lanes will be striped with white paint and identified with “Bus/Taxi Only” stenciling. They will be removed within 120 days af-



The 43 Masonic is a vital north-south connection for our neighborhood.

ter the public health emergency order is lifted, unless there is a public process to make a lane permanent.

—Karen Crommie

*Safe Sleeping Village, continued from page 1, column 1.*

Even progressive social media reflect a small but growing backlash against the way the City is managing its response to sheltering homeless people during Covid. Not just in the Haight, but in neighborhoods all over the city.



How did he get here? Each person has a different story.

They used to call it compassion fatigue but now it’s more like, whoa, is the tail wagging the dog? For years we have called for using the homeless database to draw a line between those who have established residency in San Francisco and newcomers—charity begins at home.

But as long as federal money is utilized, any housing we create must be available to all comers under the federal Fair Housing Act. If a workaround cannot be found, it’s time for the State of California and the City to work together on sensible solutions. If there were no FEMA money available for the city’s empty hotel rooms, maybe San Francisco would be forced to find more realistic and long-lasting solutions—conservatorships, supportive housing, and mental health beds.

—Karen Crommie

**Staircase From Muni Park to Clayton: Before and After**



First came the penguin, later the baby, then an outburst of anger from a public art critic.

*Jane Morrison*  
*April 17, 1920 - July 4, 2020*

Born in Hackberry Flat, near Frederick, Oklahoma, Jane Morrison was a graduate of Oklahoma State University (Stillwater) and got her first job in 1942 as a newspaper editor in Perry, Oklahoma, a career made possible for a woman only because men went to World War II in 1942. She then worked six years as an editor for the Associated Press in Oklahoma City and Kansas City, Missouri.

She moved to the Bay Area in 1949 with her husband Jack Morrison who served as a San Francisco supervisor for eight years. In 1952, she became manager of public affairs programming at KNBR-NBC Radio. For eight years she conducted broadcasting classes part-time at three different San Francisco colleges. Jane's final career was in politics as a volunteer, when she served as State Women's Chair of the California Democratic Party 1958 to 1964 and was an official delegate to the 1960 and 1964 Democratic National Conventions.

Her contribution to the city was immense, serving on numerous commissions and committees. In later life she devoted her time to fundraising for local and national Democrat candidates. Her home on Woodland Avenue could be easily identified during election times by the political signage covering the windows. An irreplaceable Grand Dame in the best sense of the term.

(Excerpted from The Chronicle, July 9-12, 2020)

# Park Statues Toppled

We know that the aftermath of the George Floyd murder initiated long-needed scrutiny of our public monuments but to slather red paint on the whimsical figure group near the De Young depicting Sancho Panza and Don Quixote kneeling at the foot of Cervantes was, well, just plain wrong.



*Jo Mora's memorial to Cervantes has been power washed to remove the vandal's paint.*

Toppling Francis Scott Key is another matter. Some park purists have for many years wanted both him, and its elaborate Victorian surround—topped by “Columbia,” gone from Golden Gate Park's concourse. But it kept coming back. A symbol of patriotism sculpted by William Wetmore Story in 1888, it had been removed three times for different reasons—



*Photo: Betty Yu, KPDX*

*Francis Scott Key, still penning the National Anthem, lies in repose.*

the last during the addition to the Academy of Sciences and the construction of the new De Young



*The graffiti denouncing Key as a “slave-holder,” scrawled on its base, was quickly whitewashed.*

Museum and underground parking garage, after which it was again reinstalled in 2005. On June 19 Key's statue was unceremoniously uprooted from its pedestal and allowed to roll down the grassy slope beneath. According to the Arts Commission, the statue, along with one of Saint Junipero Serra, has been placed in storage. There is doubt that either will reappear, possibly subject to the same fate as future renditions of Key's famous anthem at the start of American sporting

—Karen Crommie

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## Welcome to Our New Park Station Captain Chris Pedrini

Captain Chris Pedrini is a San Francisco Bay Area native who was raised in a family in which nine members, including his uncle and father, have been current or retired law enforcement officers. He was drawn to police work at an early age, he says, “because I wanted to help people by providing for their safety. It is a duty and responsibility I felt strongly about then and still feel strongly about today.” He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in organizational leadership from Colorado State University and a master’s degree in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.



*Captain Chris Pedrini*

Pedrini began his law enforcement career in 1990, serving in police departments in Half Moon Bay and Daly City before transferring to the SFPD in 1994. Since that time he has worked in uniformed patrol, plainclothes, investigations, risk management, administration and homeland security.

## Architects Chosen for New UCSF

If you like the look of the DeYoung Museum, you’re in luck. The Regents have selected the same architectural firm, Herzog & de Meuron, to build UCSF’s new hospital. Although they are quick to say that it won’t look like the museum, and that the firm, yes, has had medical clients before, mostly in Switzerland and Denmark, it is anyone’s guess as to the design of the final structure. Framed as a part of the “re-imagining” of the 157 year old medical school and hospital, it will mean a massive expansion of the campus.

This is controversial because the Inner Sunset Neighbors, fearful that the school would gobble up the whole neighborhood, won a lawsuit in 1976 putting a cap on its footprint at 3.5 million square feet. This held for many years, but no longer. The campus has the clout of State of California in overriding such limitations and in a surprise announcement last Fall, admitted that their plans amounted to an addition of 1.5 million square feet. That’s hundreds more people coming into the neighborhood on a daily basis. There is no plan for expanding transit nor, as a state entity, will it pay the usual city fees expected of a commercial developer.



But you have to give credit where it’s due. UCSF has done yeoman “public outreach” to the point of exhausting Haight and Sunset critics. And there are a slew more community meetings in the works. Bottom line: they can do what they want. And if what they want is for the ultimate betterment of mankind, who are we to try to stop them. Think of what others would give to have a world class medical facility in their backyard.

—Karen Crommie



## 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 will 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 August 2019 through July 2020. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**OMG (\$2,500): Tracy and Patrick Jennings**

**Beacons (\$1,500): Abby & David M. Rumsey**

**Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): Michael Siliski, Karen and David Crommie, Linda Erkelens, Linda C. Hothem—Pacific American Group**

**Donors (\$100 - \$249): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Chris Bunga, Lena Emmery and Charles Canepa, Gina Centoni, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Diane and Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Joan Downey, Tresa and Jim Eyres, Robert Goodman, Marianne Hesse, Mary & John Hooper, Jenny Lee, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Nicole Valco**

**Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Kay Auciello, Travis Becker, Kathleen Bertram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Deb & Todd Frederick, Doug Hall, Van Hart, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Ice Cream Bar -- Juliet Pries, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Barbara Mow, Craig Newmark, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O’Such, Francine M. Prophet, MeMe Riordan, Kendra & William Robins, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Diane & Bob Silver, Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Mary Ann Wolcott**

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Mary Helen Briscoe, Kristina & Howard Case, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Kay Cockerill, Warren Cockerel, Sheila Cordon, Joseph Creitz, Ellen Curry, Christina Danford, Adele Dorison, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Marissa Gomes, Mike & John Greenwood, Michael Moore, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page Brian Presley, Sandra Radtka, Helen and Allan Ridley Shannon Riordan, Marie Samson, William Simpson, Cynthia Smuzynska, Susan Strolis, Daniel Swangard, Conchita Toshok, Jillian and Blake Tyrrell, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vogensen, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman**

**Boosters (\$24 and below): Shelagh Brodersen, Anne Buchanan, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Beverly Ku, David Oates, John Priest, Aisling Robins, Lee Shalev, Erin Shigekawa, Kira Sparks, Cynthia Travis, Ken Wilcox**

## Stabbing on Waller

Firing a shot at a police officer is, unfortunately, a common event in America. To gouge a sharp metal object into his face repeatedly, is another. That's what happened on Waller and Clayton Street on Saturday, July 25 at 9:15 pm. The assailant was identified as 40-year-old Mike Anderson. A witness pointed him out as he was fleeing from the scene. SFPD told The Chronicle that officers pursued Anderson on



Incident happened at the end of this block on Waller near Clayton.

foot and ultimately arrested him. He was later transported to San Francisco County Jail where he was booked on suspicion of aggravated assault, assault on an officer and resisting arrest, among other offenses.

The police officer went to the hospital to have his face stitched up; another officer had minor injuries. Earlier that day I had walked by a group of nine young people with knapsacks and four dogs who were camped on the corner of Waller and Haight. One played a guitar and the rest were in a mellow haze. I thought, as I do often, "Just another bunch of lost kids from dysfunctional homes." I may be naïve.

—Karen Crommie

### CVIA Seeks New Board Member

The CVIA Board of Directors has an open seat. **This could be you.** CVIA represents our neighborhood and we know you care about what happens here. You could bring that passion, knowledge and engagement to this group. It is an opportunity to provide ideas on what we could do better as a neighborhood and how we can continue to support each other as neighbors. Check out more info in our blog post at <https://www.cviasf.org/blog/>

### Does your company match charitable gifts?

Employee matching gift programs are corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. It's an easy way to double your contribution to CVIA.

## Brown v Preston for District 5 Supervisor Seat: Round Two

### The Last Episode:

Vallie Brown was appointed by Mayor London Breed to fill her position as District 5 supervisor, which she had necessarily vacated upon her election to the top job on June 1, 2018. Last November, Brown's appointment needed to be confirmed by the voters. She ran to defend it against Dean Preston, a tenant advocate, for the one year remaining in London's supervisory term. Both Vallie and Dean ran spirited campaigns for the short gig, but the result was that Brown lost by 185 votes. Having served as supervisor for 15 months, she had to step down. Her name was scraped off the D-5 office door at City Hall and replaced by Dean Preston's. She is trying to regain that seat in the coming election on November 3. Both will compete for a full four-year term as D-5 supervisor.

### Moderate Confronts Democratic Socialist

Although they agree on most things, responding to the generally progressive bent of D-5 voters, Vallie has something that Dean lacks: the friendship of the Mayor and ability to understand neighbors desire for safety. This is no small thing when it comes to representing our district. On the other hand, Dean is the ultimate politician. Easy with crowds, confident, glib, he has made his mark as a strong tenant advocate. Vallie is more reticent by nature but has worked relentlessly in any of the positions she has held, mostly for those with little. She was a go-to supervisor who responded to every call, surrounded herself with competency and yet can still be seen picking up trash on the streets around her Cole Valley home. She persuaded the Mayor to have the City



Vallie Brown



Supervisor Dean Preston

buy McDonald's for affordable housing. She has been poor. Dean hasn't. That doesn't mean she's better, it just means she understands things he cannot. But he is an attorney who has a long history of fighting building owners for the rights of tenants and now he has the advantage of incumbency. For further thought, an objective piece in the Examiner by Eric Kingsbury on 6/28/20 presents a political analysis of D-5 going into this election and the relative chances of each. An earlier piece comparing the two by Randy Shaw appeared in Beyond Chron 7/17/18 is still generally true today.

—Karen Crommie

Visit our website at  
**CVIASF.org**

# CVIA Gives Grant to Support Neighborhood Open Space

The CVIA board of directors unanimously agreed to renew their annual grant to the Sutro Stewards, the volunteer group that maintains the 61 acres of hiking trails on UCSF's Mt. Sutro—our neighborhood wild open space.



Executive Director Ildiko Polony holds the \$1,000 check from CVIA.

On June 25, CVIA past president Lena Emmery presented Ildiko Polony, executive director of the Stewards, a check for \$1,000, made possible by membership dues to CVIA

one thousand volunteers who work on trail maintenance and building, a native plant nursery, and habitat conservation—as well as public education programs like the annual wildflower walks. She said the funds will be directed towards completion of the Clarendon entry to the forest. The many trails of Sutro Forest are particularly appreciated by neighborhood residents during this summer of limited travel.

If you want to join them in their work and spend more time in the peaceful setting the forest offers, check out [SutroStewards.org](http://SutroStewards.org) to find the times and meeting places of volunteer events. You can also find a high-resolution trail

—Lena Emmery

## What About the Kids?

The Fall school semester officially began on August 17. With San Francisco schools confined to distance learning, at least for the foreseeable future, Cole Valley and Haight parents will still be supervising virtual classes and struggling to arrange ad-hoc group learning with social distancing.

But for preschoolers the long, long summer that began in March will continue much the same. As we look back at the challenges, you couldn't help noticing that parents and caregivers were desperate for ways to amuse the kids. With the playgrounds closed and close contact a danger it's been an uphill battle.



Grattan Playground is closed tight, along with the children's playgrounds in Robin Williams Meadow, and the



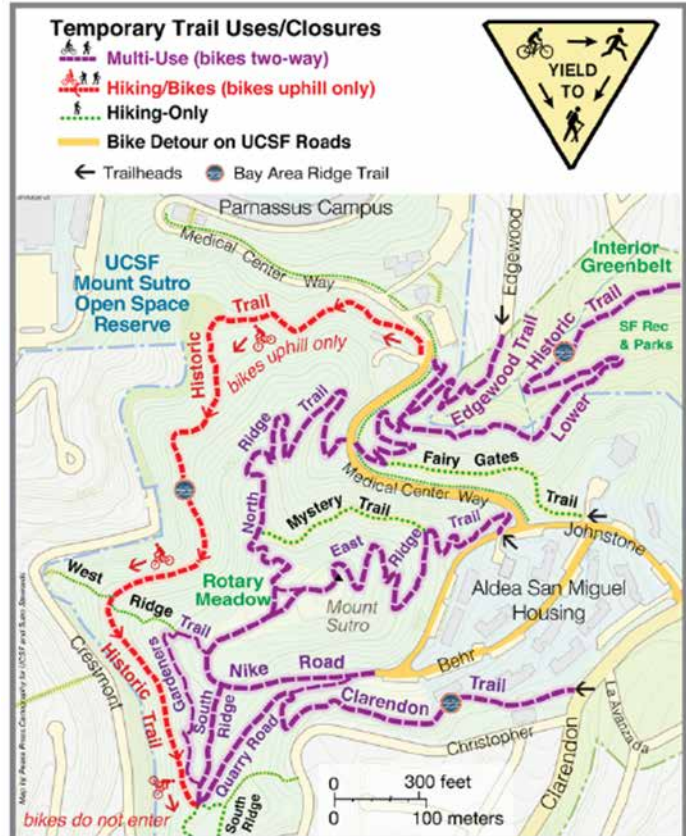
Kids discovered that the sidewalks were ready-made canvases if you have enough colored chalk. Masking tape is used for a stained glass effect.



The toys displayed in Cole Valley windows are to interest small fry in neighborhood walks.



Using a plastic storage box as a pool was short-lived when the fog rolled in.



over the last year. The donation will be posted as a matching grant opportunity for other contributors.

Polony expressed appreciation on behalf of the over

## Beauty of Impermanence

As some of you know, I have taken a lot of photos of Corona-Art. Working with Dave Christensen of the Harvey Milk Photo Center, we've put together a virtual exhibit called the "Beauty of Impermanence" of our top 50 choices. Maybe one day it will be a physical exhibit but for now it is virtual. <https://www.harveymilkphoto.com/virtual-gallery/beauty-of-impermanence/>

—Bill O'Such

## Japanese Tea Garden Reopens

After a four month closure, the Japanese Tea Garden is now open from Wednesday through Sunday. The garden will welcome up to 100 visitors at staggered times from 9:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly suggested. The famous pagoda is still under scaffolding, part of a \$2 million restoration project, but the experience, particularly in the morning hours, is uplifting, reminding one that there is a more refined, quieter way to be in this world.

The tea garden was originally built as part of a model village for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exhibition by Australian born George Turner Marsh, who hired Japanese craftsmen to construct the site. After the close of



In 1953 the Japanese Consul General presented the 9,000 pound Lantern of Peace (far right) funded by small donations from the children of Japan.

the fair, Marsh sold his concession to the city of San Francisco for \$4,500. Makoto Hagiwara, a Japanese immigrant gardener, was hired to manage the garden. He personally oversaw the modification of the temporary fair exhibit into the permanent Japanese Tea Garden and was official caretaker of the garden for most of the time between 1895 to 1925 tripling its size. He imported many plants, birds, and the now famous koi fish from Japan. At the end of the fair, Superintendent John McLaren had told Hagiwara that he could expand and maintain a permanent Japanese-style garden. After that, Hagiwara and his family lived on the Tea Garden grounds. When Makoto Hagiwara died in 1925, his daughter, Takano Hagiwara, and her children became the caretakers of the property.



Makoto Hagiwara

During WWII the Hagiwaras were interned, along with more than 120,000 other Japanese, losing everything. The garden's name was changed to The Oriental Tea Garden. All relics and structures that were an expression of Japan were demolished. Despite the prior agreement between Makoto and John McLaren, once the war ended and the Hagiwara family were released from the camps, Takano and the rest of Makoto's descendants weren't allowed back on the grounds that they had called home for so long.

It wasn't until 1952 when the "Japanese Tea Garden" name was reinstated. The Hagiwara family, however, offered only minimal assistance to help get the garden back to a more authentic look.

After the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty in San Francisco in 1953, another peace offering was given to the garden. The Lantern of Peace acted as a much-needed symbol of friendship between Japan and America's future generations. During this same period, a "Peace Garden" and a traditional karesansui (rock garden) were added to the grounds.

Makoto Hagiwara's memory, as well as that of his family, was honored in 1974 when a memorial plaque was gifted to the Japanese Tea Garden.

*(Thanks to theculturetrip.com for above information.)*

## Is Your Garage Safe?

As you are probably aware, there are an escalating number of garage burglaries in our neighborhood. Especially vulnerable are garage doors with windows and those where people can look through the mail slot and see valuable bikes, etc. I reinforced my windows with plexiglass screwed to the inside windows procured from TAP plastic. If you already have broken windows you can call someone to replace them with wired glass. Apparently, thieves are now drilling

holes in solid doors to get at the garage contents. You can thwart them from opening the manual release (for automatic garage doors) by using a zip tie to secure the manual release against opening from the outside. Shortening the cord on the manual release handle is also recommended, though burglars have various ways to tug on the release. For that reason the zip tie or something similar is recommended. You can get more information on YouTube, "How to Secure Your Garage Door from Burglars."



*Bike thieves are smarter than you think.*

—Jessica Justino

## Well Done, Lena

The CVIA Board of Directors thanks Lena Emmery for exceptional leadership over the past two years. A native of Denmark, Lena has provided a world view and sound judgement during a challenging time. She has also served as CVIA's representative on the Community Police Advisory Board at Park Station for over nine years.



In private life, Lena Emmery served two consecutive terms as president of CVIA. Here she is with Mayor London Breed at the annual Summer Social.

member of American Mensa and is principal of her own real estate brokerage firm. She is an active member of the San Francisco Realtors, and former board member. Lena is an avid bicycle rider and has published several books on bicycle touring.

## 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

### Virtual Meeting on Zoom— June 1, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a bank balance of \$56,670.70 out of which \$17,056.74 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 is being held in a special account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. There are currently 559 members, 31 renewals and 21 gifts.

■ Joan read correspondence from member Barbara Alexander and also an appeal to promote a children's book written by a Cole Valley author.

■ Shannon Cooper Hock urged board members to use their Slack accounts, indexing topics for more seamless discussions.

■ Breana Wheeler said she would create an e-mail tree and provide a "map" or our different social media along with a tutorial for best use of Slack. Her concern is management. She will make a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

■ Karen Crommie reported on the recent food preparation and delivery operation at the Waller Center run by Food Runners. Founded by Mary Risley, two hundred volunteers gather more than 17 tons of perishable food from hotel buffets, grocery stores and catered parties each week. But now, for the first time in 30 years, they have access to a kitchen with the ability to provide hot meals. Run by Cow Hollow restaurateur Todd Conboy they deliver 1,500 meals a day out of the Waller location.

■ Identified a need to establish a procedure for processing and reducing the amount of emails sent to the four different CVIA contact points. Right now, Joan forwards letters to the Board and the person who feels he/she can best answer, does so, sending bcc's to other Board members. Breana to work on this reporting back at August board meeting.

■ In his report on a new group called Safe Healthy Haight (SHH) Steven Madrid said the group now had 300 supporters and are focused on site management of the "Safe Sleeping Village" (SSV) at 730 Stanyan. They will examine the city's contract with the Office of Emergency Services this week. SHH has published two information blogs on Medium.com.

■ Steven also reported on yet another new advocacy group, this one supporting the Safe Sleeping Village at 730 Stanyan, called Cole Valley and Haight Allies (CVHA) headed by artist Sadie Valeri.

■ Joan reported on the Western Transportation traffic study substantiating the need of GG Park's museums to maintain automobile access in spite of bicyclist groups and some park activists who want to keep the park as a "sylvan refuge." She will continue to attend their meetings knowing that the Board is not in full agreement with either position.

■ Discussed the proposed cannabis store and lounge on Stanyan. Board was divided on taking a position. Some disappointment with Connor Johnson (hired to do neighborhood outreach for the building owners) over what some felt was his misrepresentation of the Haight Street cannabis shop Berner's as a neighborhood enterprise, when it was eventually operated by a national chain, Cookies. Note: this was cleared up at a virtual community meet-

ing on June 11, when Johnson explained that all local retail cannabis dispensaries contract with an outside "operator" to actually run the business side of the enterprise. This will be true for the Stanyan site.) Although the matter is scheduled to go to the Planning Commission on June 18, the decision to support or remain neutral was postponed.

■ Steven asked how much it would cost for the daily Cole Street sidewalk cleaners to extend their work northward to Frederick. Joan will check with Recology and report at next meeting.

■ Carole Glosenger asked if we wanted to set up a Zoom meeting with the Mayor. Board felt it was better to wait until the Haight construction project was completed, the Covid-19 restrictions abated, and the management of the Safe Sleeping Village can be evaluated.

■ BVNA asked that CVIA support the upcoming Park Bond and contact the supervisors urging money for Buena Vista Park improvements. Discussion was postponed.

■ Joan Downey asked if we would support closing off Cole Street for one block so that the restaurants (hanging on by a shoestring) could serve in the middle of the street for the next month. This could be confined to certain hours to allow for morning deliveries, etc. (Supervisor Preston is an advocate of closing streets to traffic "Slow Streets" and would probably expedite it.) Board requested that other merchants on the street be consulted, along with SFMTA.

■ Motion approved to donate \$1,000 to the Sutro Stewards, who manage crews of volunteers to maintain hiking trails on Mt. Sutro.

■ Motion approved that the newsletter and website will include a reminder that a contribution to CVIA's "Clean Cole" fund may be matched by the donor's employer. Chris Hock to send legal wording.

■ Motion approved unanimously to support the slate of new officers for the term August 2020-2021:

President-Carole Glosenger, Vice President-Steven Madrid (Steven Madrid later withdrew and was replaced by Breana Wheeler), Treasurer-Joan Downey, Recording Secretary-Karen Crommie, Online Communications -Breana Wheeler

Adjourned 8:50 p.m.

### Virtual Meeting on Zoom – July 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a bank balance of \$55,530.62 out of which \$16,852.95 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 is being held in a special account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. There are currently 560 members, 10 new members and 33 gifts.

■ Motion passed not to support the cannabis dispensary on Stanyan Street (remain neutral).

■ Motion passes not to support the proposed parklet in front of Peet's because of parking impact.

■ Motion to set up a Zoom account in the name of CVIA rather than the person managing it. Breana to establish and purchase.

■ Motion to cancel annual Summer Social because of the city's coronavirus advisory. Will investigate possibility of a virus-safe outdoor version of Santa on Cole. Decision to be made in September.

■ Joan reported that Jerome's Antiques on Parnassus is joining the number of neighborhood businesses on closing for good.



■ In a report on the Safe Healthy Haight group, dedicated to oversight of the “Safe Sleeping Village” at 730 Stanyan, Steven Madrid said that the lot is at full capacity (approximately 37 tents) and could be in operation for as long as the end of the year. He added that the management is competent but the result is that the Haight sidewalks are the residents’ “living room.” Neighbors are complaining about blocked corners on Haight Street, particularly at the intersections of Ashbury and Clayton streets where drinking, fighting and loud noise disturb the peace.

■ The Cole Valley Haight Allies, a group started by Sadie Valeri, and supportive of the Safe Sleeping Village, is very active with over 300 members. Sadie was to join the meeting tonight but unfortunately did not appear. The Board was eager to get her take on the impact of the 730 Stanyan Village on Haight residents.

■ Steven told the board that if they want a senior center to be part of the services on the ground floor of the completed affordable housing structure at 730 Stanyan, they should start to find allies among existing entities currently working in senior services. Joan said that there were 4,000 seniors living in 94117 zip code. Carole said we could join CCC (Coalition for a Complete Community) in their plan for senior services on the site. Breana asked if there were other aspects of CCC’s plan we could support. She added that perhaps CVIA members would prefer services for some other group of neighbors such as those with small children, to which Marianne said it would be ideal to involve both young and old in a tutoring program, to which Joan agreed. Breana offered to draft a SurveyMonkey for CVIA members stating their preference. Decided on Chris and Breana’s suggestion that we each assemble a list of on-going service organizations which might be interested in responding to the city’s RFP for use of the ground floor.

■ Cathy Haller acknowledged the steady leadership of Lena Emmery as CVIA president for the last two years. All agreed hardily and expressed appreciation for a job well done. President-elect Carole Glosenger will begin her term in August.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

### Virtual Meeting on Zoom – August 3, 2020, 7:00

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,534.89, out of which \$15,890.16 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 is held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Steven Madrid reported that the 37 some residents of the Safe Sleeping Village had settled in and would probably not move on to permanent housing in the near future. Downtown Streets has been employed to clean up after the group that congregates daily on several corners of Haight—Ashbury, Clayton, Shrader.

■ Lena Emmery said she would send her report on the C-PAB meeting to board members next week.

■ Joan will set up a Zoom account for CVIA in lieu of using Shannon Cooper Hock’s account.

■ Steven reported a few tents still on Waller Street causing some neighborhood pushback to the deteriorating street life, particularly from the famously compassionate residents of Waller Street. CVIA president Carol Glosenger said she would write a letter to Jeff Kositsky (Healthy Streets Operation Center) reminding him of his promise that the 730 Stanyan Safe Sleeping Village would have no negative impact or “spill over” on to neighborhood streets.

■ Steven said that “Safe Healthy Haight,” a neighborhood group advocating for exactly that, has companion groups elsewhere in the city: Save our Amazing Richmond and RescueSF in Cow Hollow, Tent Free Hayes Valley and more. He quoted Supervisor Mandelman in a recent KTVU interview saying, “The tents are driving people batty. People are fed up.” Safe Health Haight will be holding a virtual community meeting with Vallie Brown on August 13.

■ Motion passed unanimously to cancel both the Summer Social and Santa on Cole because of coronavirus restrictions against groups and close contact.

■ Joan brought attention to a major 800 foot expansion of a home on Belgrave and the date of the pre-application review.

■ Motion passed to announce a vacancy on the Board to be announced in the Fall newsletter.

■ Breana Wheeler requested photos of the new officers along with a brief biography of each to be printed along with it.

■ Review and discussion of the “CVIA Board Internal Communications Review,” created by Breana was postponed until the September meeting.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

## Architects Settle on Cole Street

Pacific American Group, owners of 930 Cole Street, (the former Cole Garage) announced that Mar Jang Architecture will be moving into Suite 101 on September 1st. Karen Mar, is a native San Franciscan, grew up in North Beach and attended Lowell High School. After graduating from California Polytechnic State University, she worked at several notable design firms in San Francisco. Mar Jang Architecture’s practice includes residential, commercial and public design. They will be a great addition to the 930 Cole Street building as well as the Cole Valley neighborhood. Please join us in welcoming Karen and her team to the neighborhood.



*Karen Mar, RA*



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or Leave a message at 415-431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

# Introducing The New Officers Postscripts

Each March, the CVIA Board of Directors nominates officers to fulfill specific organizational responsibilities as required under our Bylaws. Normally the election would take place at the Summer Social but due to the pandemic, the Board has elected them by fiat. Below are the officers for the 2020-2021 term.

## Carole Glosenger, President

Carole has lived in Cole Valley for 46 years and is one of the founding members of CVIA in 1989. Originally from, Chicago, Carole moved to San Francisco in 1969 and to Cole Valley in 1974. She has been president three times before and has worked for CVIA on neighborhood issues with City Hall officials, special projects and events like the Cole Valley Fair, Santa on Cole and other activities. Besides neighborhood activism, Carole's interests are in Fine Art, Interior Design and Architectural Graphics.



Photo: Joan Downey

## Breana Wheeler, Vice President

Breana has lived in Cole Valley off and on since 1998 and most recently moved back in 2014. Her grandparents and great-grandparents moved to the neighborhood in 1948 and her mother, aunts and uncles were all raised in the neighborhood. Breana joined the Board in December 2019 and this is her first officer position with CVIA. She coordinates CVIA's communications and manages the organization's digital presence. She is passionate about sustainability (her chosen profession), livable cities, resilient communities and social equity.



## Joan Downey, Treasurer

Joan moved to Cole Valley in 1975 (although her Carl Street address was then considered to be the Haight). She joined the CVIA board around 1990 and has been Treasurer since about 2007. She keeps an eye on MTA issues, coordinates the Clean Cole and Santa on Cole programs and is the CVIA rep on the Westside Transportation and Accessibility Coalition. She's also on the board of the Older Women's League, a walker, and a bridge player. In non-Covid times, she enjoys traveling and hiking in areas that are outside of SF. (Ed. note: And, obviously, has a good sense of humor.)



## Karen Crommie, Recording Secretary

Native San Franciscan, Karen is a retired film/video producer. She is a member of both the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America. She served San Francisco as a Library Commissioner, president of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, and president of the Economic Round Table of San Francisco. She has served on the CVIA board for 30 years and edits the CVIA News quarterly.



The Board extends their profound thanks to **Lena Emmerly** and **Cathy Haller** who held the President and Vice President roles respectively for the last two years.

Following **MadKat**, **Leenie Rae** and, most recently **TANTRUM**, **Jerry Emerson** plans to close **Jerome's Antiques** by August 31—



maybe earlier if bigger items are sold. He's been at 90 Parnassus for 13 years. For the first eight years the shop was called **Cole Valley Antiques** where he shared the space with **Angie Taylor**. Jerry will join **Gary Mureta** at Mureta's Antiques for an opening on September 1. That shop is on 2418 Fillmore Street between Washington & Jackson. He'll be bringing in high-end costume jewelry and small unique

items. We will miss having Jerry in Cole Valley but wish him well in the upper Fillmore.

\*\*\*

Cole Valley mourned the death of **Ken Stober**, bartender at **Finnegan's Wake**, who passed away suddenly on May 17 at the age of 57 of congestive heart disease. His warmth, good humor, sage advice and selflessness made him dear to many in the neighborhood. Stober's sister, **Sally Thompson** wrote, "On the day of passing more than 300 of his close San Francisco friends waited patiently in line until well past midnight to pay their respect to his wife Megan Cornelius."

\*\*\*

**Joan Downey** told us she was curious that none of the Cole Street restaurants are erecting parklets. Chestnut Street is full of them. **Cole Hardware** has spaces marked for customer pick-up (a legit use) and the **Peet's** architect who wants a permanent one said



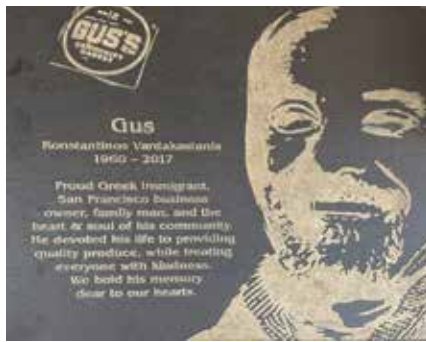
Photo: Joan Downey

he will be working on getting a temporary one there; **Katrina**, the manager said that they have a space for customer pick-up but there's no sign and no enforcement. Also, they can't have it right

in front of their place since it's a loading zone. **Creola** and **Kezar Pizetta** (both on Frederick St.) are the only restaurants in Cole Valley with parklets.

\*\*\*

A bronze plaque has been placed in the sidewalk in front of **Gus's Community Market** (1530 Haight Street) and on



a bench in the newly refurbished Panhandle children's playground honoring its founder, the late **Konstantinos (Gus) Vardakastanis**.

Both are handsome reminders of a beloved neighbor who, with his wife **Georgia** and sons **Dmitri** and **Bobby**, gener-

ously provided both food and friendship to so many. **Gus** was killed in 2017 at the age of 57 in a hit-and-run near the San

Francisco Wholesale Produce Market in the Bayview district. Over the last month there have been



two other pedestrian fatalities in the same area.

\*\*\*

At last—**Mayor London Breed** announced on August 11 a plan to create a **Street Crisis Response Team** that would respond to calls involving mental health and substance use. The goal for this new team is to provide a non-law enforcement response to individuals in crisis away from emergency rooms and criminal justice settings into behavioral health treatment facilities.

—Karen Crommie

**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 Winter edition should be sent before October 15, 2020 to [CVIASF@aol.com](mailto: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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 Editorial Assistance ..... Joan Downey

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 Vice President ..... Breana Wheeler  
 Treasurer ..... Joan Downey  
 Recording Secretary ..... Karen Crommie  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Breana Wheeler  
 Membership ..... Lena Emmery  
 Special Projects ..... Joan Downey  
 Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

# Help

- Emergency .....911
- Disturbance ..... (415) 553-0123
- Blocked Driveways..... (415) 553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles ..... (415) 781-5865
- Health Department ..... (415) 255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal.....311
- NextBus .....311
- Street Lighting..... (415) 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" Scott** ..... (415) 553-1551  
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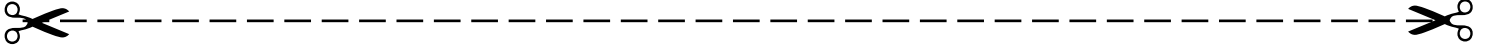
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### BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the district; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be

constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

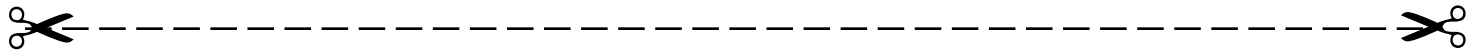
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

What I like about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

What I dislike about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$\_\_\_\_\_ Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

*Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street 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**

Regretfully, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the following events have been cancelled:  
**CVIA SUMMER SOCIAL**  
**COLE VALLEY FAIR**  
**SANTA ON COLE**