

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

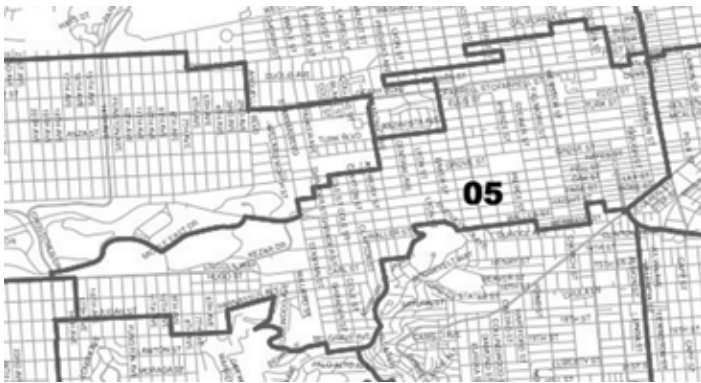
Volume XXXVIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2022

## How Will Compulsory Redistricting Change District 5?

The Supervisorial Districts will be changed this year to accommodate the shifting population in San Francisco. This



District 5 must expand its boundaries by two percent.

happens every 10 years to ensure equal and equitable representation for all residents. The idea is to keep the number of residents and communities of interest together so they have meaningful representation at City Hall.

The process is confusing in that several district maps are proposed and evaluated by nine members of the Redistricting

*Continued on page 2, column 1*

## City Lowers Haight Speed Limit

Seven busy street corridors in San Francisco saw their speed limits lowered to 20 mph in early January as the city puts to use its newfound power to reduce speeds under a new state law AB43. One of these was Haight Street, from Stanyan to Central Avenue and from Webster to Steiner.



Photo: prestonstaff@sfgov.

The SFMTA implemented the changes in two phases. First, under the provision that went into effect in January, the SFMTA lowered speed limits by 5 mph (from 25 mph to 20 mph, or 30 mph to 25

mph) in key business activity streets, where at least half of the property uses are dining or retail.

The speed limit changes come less than a month after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law. It reflects the city's urgency in trying to meet its self-imposed goal to eliminate pedestrian fatalities by 2024 (Vision Zero).

## Lawsuit Against UCSF Update

The Parnassus Neighborhood Coalition and Calvin Welch filed a complaint against the Regents of the University of California alleging the Regents' approval of the Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan violated the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and also breaches the Regents' long-standing and oft-repeated promise to limit development on the Parnassus campus to 3.55 million gross square feet ("Space Ceiling"). Our CEQA claims were joined by two other neighborhood groups, San Franciscans for Livable and Balanced Communities and the Yerba Buena Neighborhood Consortium.



UCSF broke their agreement with the neighborhood and is going ahead with its plan for a new 15 story building.

The suit was filed on February 19, 2021 in the Alameda County Superior Court, the headquarters of the Regents, and all three complaints have been assigned to Judge Frank Roesch.

Two important issues are pending and unresolved. The first is the Regents' failure to furnish us with documents required by the discovery process concerning (i) preparation of the Environmental Impact Report and (ii) the Regents' approval of the Space Ceiling. The second issue is the Helen



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Diller Foundation's refusal to provide any documents in response to our subpoena for business records relevant to how its donation affected the Regents' decision-making process for UCSF. We have filed motions to compel on both these matters.

Discovery is ongoing on the Space Cap breach of promise issue and a trial on that will probably not commence before mid 2022.

We, and our co-litigants, believe that we have some excellent CEQA claims and that our breach of promise claim is likewise very strong.

We remain supportive of UCSF as a world class medical, educational and research organization but litigation was our only option to make the Regents comply with their promise to limit development at the Parnassus campus and the CEQA law.

—*The Parnassus Neighborhood Coalition*

*Redistricting, continued from page 1, column 1.*

Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of three members appointed directly by the mayor, three by the Department of Elections, and three by the Board of Supervisors.

The main problem is the increased population in D-6. SOMA has increased residential apartments and the population has grown. So D-6 has to shrink and, as a result the neighboring districts have to assume additional population. Some maps are suggesting Cole Valley be moved to D-8 with Eureka Valley and the Castro. Another map shows some of the Inner Sunset removed from D-5, with a few streets added on the north and east and Cole Valley remaining in D-5. One map showed the whole Upper Ashbury from Oak Street and Cole Valley moved to D-8. The information presented by the Redistricting Task Force does not reveal the originator of the various maps submitted. Anyone can draw a map and present it to the Task Force. You could draw a map using the instructions at support@publicredistricting.com.

By far the best map is one drawn by longtime elections scholar and member of the original non-partisan redistricting commission Chris Bowman. He reasons that Ashbury Heights, Clifford Terrace, and Mt. Olympus, now in D-8, are "west of the east/west topographic divide" and are part of the Haight's 'community of interest' and should be included with all of Cole Valley from Frederick to Clarendon.

What would these various district changes mean for D-5 representation? If you are interested in the Redistricting process go to their website for information and upcoming meeting dates. There are at least two zoom meeting dates every week. Although the one specifically concentrating on D-5 is on March 14 at 5:30 pm, a person can make his or her case at any of the meetings. The Task Force's final draft of district maps will be presented on April 15. To attend a virtual meeting, go to sfelections.org/rdtf.

—*Carole Glosenger*



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 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

## Litigant Says UCSF Benefited From 1976 Space Cap

"The 1976 settlement agreement between the University and the community to withdraw a CEQA law suit against the School of Dentistry building not only resulted in the development cap for the Parnassus campus, but also an agreement to keep Mt. Sutro as publicly accessible open space for 50 years (later made permanent and expanded to some 61 of the 107 acres at the Parnassus campus), and the return of more than 100 units of housing to private ownership in the Inner Sunset. In addition, UCSF took seriously the community position, first articulated in the June 1975 Mt. Sutro Community Master Plan, of decentralizing the Parnassus Campus by seeking other locations to expand.

"The first example was the building of a dental clinic at the old UC Extension Campus at 100 Buchanan in the Western Addition in 1979 and adding a dental clinic at SF General. Then, in 1985, UCSF bought the 360,000 square foot Fireman's Fund Building in Laurel Heights and put some 1,200 office workers there. Again returning to the Western Addition, in

*Campus in 1976 at the time of the Space Cap.*

1990 UCSF bought Mount Zion Hospital and transformed it into the first comprehensive cancer center in Northern California.

"In 1999, again at the community's urging, newly elected Mayor Willie Brown approached UCSF with an offer to locate a new campus in the long-stalled Mission Bay project. Brown brokered a deal in which the developer, Catellus, donated some 29 acres and the city donated an additional 28 acres to form the 57-acre Mission Bay Campus, an area 23 percent larger than the 46 acres open for development at Parnassus Campus. The Mission Bay Campus has been such a successful economic development node for the Mission and Bayview that former Mayors Brown and Art Agnos strongly urged the Regents to move the new hospital from Parnassus to the southeast portion of the city. The Regents declined, and voted to approve the project for the overcrowded Parnassus campus."

—*Calvin Welch*

*Excerpted from "UCSF's New Hospital: A Pretty Building, But in the Wrong Place," by Calvin Welch, published in Tim Redmond's online newspaper 48hills.org on January 12, 2022. There is much more to learn. Please go to the site.*

## SFMTA Postpones Restoration of 43 Masonic Route Again

The SFMTA asked San Franciscans in fall 2021 what they should prioritize when they were able to add more Muni service in 2022. They received more than 4,500 survey responses. With this feedback, they developed a plan that focused on restoring connections. They also heard a call for increased frequency to reduce crowding and wait times. Most notable was the restoration of the 43 Masonic route to pre-pandemic alignment. Once scheduled for March this has now been postponed until as late as June. As the only direct public transportation from Cole Valley to the Marina and Fort Mason, it is sorely missed.

## The Success of Grattan School

In 2016 an exhaustive study by Rosie Cima, data journalist for Scripp's, revealed what was no secret to Cole Valley residents, Grattan Elementary School was one of the most sought after in the SF Unified School System. had a high ratio of teachers to students, an organic garden, enrichment programs that include choir, dance, technology, and "integrated drama," and—despite being a public school—a healthy budget, courtesy of aggressive fundraising by its Parent-Teacher Association. Most of that is still true under



principal Catherine Walter.

"But back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Grattan was struggling. The school's scores were lackluster, its enrollment

was dangerously low, and it was unpopular, especially among affluent white families. The school was a prime example of a troubling trend. The children of San Francisco were becoming increasingly segregated. Though the neighborhood surrounding Grattan had a sizable white population, the school's largest racial/ethnic groups were black and Asian.

"Many of the more affluent, white families in the neighborhood sent their children to private schools. "Or they were



Grattan's PTA provides perks like a gardening program.

going to public schools that looked better on paper," Jean Robertson, Grattan's principal from 2000 to 2011, says. "They certainly weren't going to Grattan School, that's for sure."

"Then something happened that should have spelled disaster for an under-attended school: the local economy collapsed. Between January 2000 and mid 2001, nine-tenths of the dot-com companies in San Francisco went under. Tens of thousands of tech employees lost their jobs, people left the city in droves, and company headquarters sat empty for years. The housing market plummeted on the heels of the tech bubble bursting, and the national recession of the early 2000s soon followed.

*Continued on page 9.*

## Peskin Moves to Weaken the Power of the Mayor

In a brash power play, Supervisor Aaron Peskin is trying to take away the traditional authority of the Mayor to change the way the city fills vacancies in elected offices.

The first part of the Charter Amendment destined for the June ballot, makes the recall process more restrictive. It would make it harder to recall incompetent politicians like the School Board members who spent the first COVID year canceling names of schools named for historical figures who did not pass their muster.

But the second part of this salutary reform measure is much more questionable because it transfers the power to appoint replacements for vacant offices from the Mayor to



*Supervisor Aaron Peskin*

members of Boards and Commissions themselves. It transfers power from the executive branch of city government to the legislative. An example is that if Supervisor Matt Haney should win the seat for the California State Assembly in the June election, his replacement

on the Board of Supervisors would be chosen by remaining members of the board, increasing the power of the "progressive" majority and further muting that of the "moderates."

But wait. "Progressives" may have reason to be angry at the Mayor. On December 21 she introduced a charter amendment consolidating all children's services under

a new department called "Children First." This, in addition to putting tighter rules for the School Board, would have shifted the control of set-aside funds, now distributed among approximately 12 nonprofits, to oversight by the Mayor's Office. There is empirical evidence



*Mayor London Breed*

for increased oversight, Sean Elsbernd tried to explain to outraged children's advocate Margaret Brodtkin, who reported this at the last meeting of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council. Needless to say, she was not persuaded. Supervisors Peskin and Chan voted to table. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman dissented. So this one is gone for now.

Likewise, Breed's three attempts to pass a ballot initiative that would speed up the city's housing approval process has been thwarted by a three-member of the Board of Supervisors well before city voters had a chance to say yes or nay.

*—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 last year, we did not ask 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 February 2021 to January 2022. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**Daddy Warbucks (\$3000) Anonymous**

**OMG (\$2500) Tracy & Patrick Jennings**

**Beacons (\$1500) Abby & David M. Rumsey**

**Benefactors (\$250 - \$499): Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Jane & Michael Miller, Pacific American Group, Jennifer Braun & Raymond Ryan, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan**

**Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Chris Bunga, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Gina Centoni, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Cole Hardware, Ellen Curry, Diane & Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, James Diwik, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Mari Coates & Gloria Galindo, Carol & Richard Harris, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, John & Mary Hooper, JLL Corporation, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Catherine & Brian Kane, Jim Laufenberg, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Peter Mansfield, Karen Mar, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Janan New, Michael Rafferty, Susan & Steven Rosen, Lauren Ross, Sigrid Schaffmann, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Victoria Zaroff**

**Contributors (\$50 - 99): Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Kay Auciello, William Barnaby, Travis Becker, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Chantal Byrne, Pete Chung, Anna Coles, Sheila Cordon, Joseph Creitz, CreoLa, Frances Dependahl, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Deb & Todd Frederick, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Lauren Peters Lague, Laura Lai, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Robert Page, Francine M. Prophet, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra & William Robins, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Jay Stevens, Mary Ann Wolcott**

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**Cynthia Travis, Nicole Valco, Edward C. Walls, Connie Kullberg & Robert Weaver, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Kack & Doug Wilhelm, Susannah Wise, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman**

**Boosters (\$24 & below): Anne Buchanan, Peter Scott Duyan, Beverley Epstein, Davelene Israel-Hanniford, Katherine Klionizchii, John Priest, Shannon Riordan**

## Small But Mighty Coffee Roastery in a Cole Valley Garage

In Cole Valley, amid its tree-lined streets, cute shops, and brunch destinations, Dan and Ella Streetman sell coffee, not from a storefront but out of their garage at 726 Cole Street.

Bird and Bear Coffee opened in June of 2020. Streetman had been working in the coffee business for about 17 years and for the last three he'd been doing business-to-business sales for Sightglass Coffee. That ended in March when the pandemic began and Streetman was laid off.

"I started talking with my wife and we said 'you know what, we're just going to do our own thing,'" Streetman said. Initially, he



Dan Streetman offers his freshly roasted coffee from the garage at 726 Cole Street.

and Ella (co-owner, co-founder, and wife) planned on building an online business. Their Cole Valley neighbors, however, kept asking what they were up to as they passed by, so he began to open the garage door while he worked. Now, with the garage door raised, customers can walk up to the

masked Streetman for just-roasted bags of specialty coffee.

For coffee roasting, Streetman says roasting anything under 15 kilograms doesn't need a permit in the state. Regardless, Streetman is prepared for the likelihood of his garage door rolling back down. "If they come for the pop-up, they come for the pop-up. It can't last forever," Streetman shrugs.

Streetman says that the way his neighbors have bought from the business might also be a by-product of the pandemic. "With everything going on, it's bad news all around. But the support has been a bright spot."

Streetman isn't sure how long the business can last as-is. He wants to place Bird and Bear in local groceries and cafes, and says that Ella and he are looking for the right ways to make a difference, and give back to the community. For instance, Streetman sells coffee for \$15 a pound for what other roasters sell for \$24 a pound. "It's a statement of accessibility, to make this an everyday luxury," Streetman says. "We didn't start this business to get rich. I want to be a force in the community. For so many years I worked in the industry to help others make it big and sell it off. I see opportunity now to be focused on who I want to be in the world rather than how much money I make."

Bird and Bear is open to walkup customers on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9 am to 4 pm and on Thursday from 1 to 4 pm.

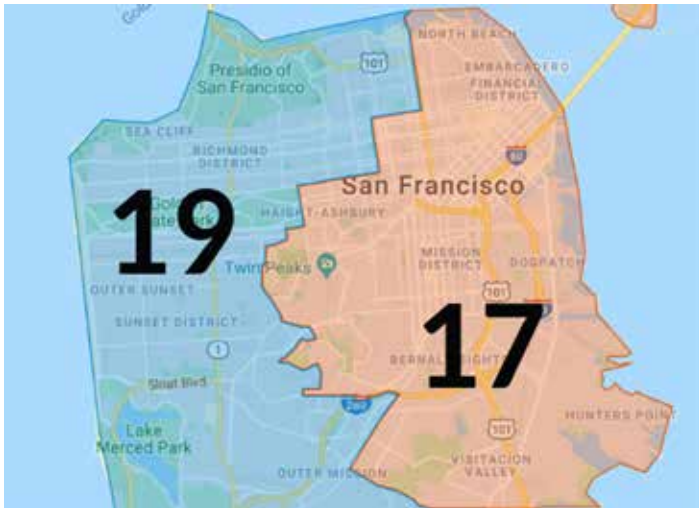
—Paolo Bicchieri

Above excerpted from Bicchieri's article in SFEater.com (1/1/21)

# State Assembly District Borders Also Changing

San Francisco's electoral map for its two state Assembly districts looks very different. The current Assembly Districts 17 and 19 split the city into its east and west sides. But the new maps show substantially different electoral lines that instead weave in and out of neighborhoods and put entire swaths of The City, including the Haight and Cole Valley into a new district. The Greater Haight will move from Assembly District 17 to 19.

The 14-member California Citizens Redistricting Commission was tasked with a daunting challenge to draw statewide electoral districts that provide relatively equal representation; maintain contiguous borders so all parts of



Most of the Haight Ashbury is moving to Assembly District 19.

a district are connected; minimize the division of "communities of interest" with shared priorities and lived experiences; and ensure all people have equal opportunity to elect representatives.

In February we voted in the Assembly District 17 special election because the new map does not go into effect until June when there will probably be a run-off election for AD17.

See the certified map at [https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/final\\_maps](https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/final_maps)

—Joan Downey

## 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! Submit articles to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or mail to CVIA News: 628 Ashbury Street, SF 94117.



Richard, a longtime member of CVIA was president of the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association for fifteen years and was a tireless worker on the restoration and maintenance of the park. He organized fundraisers to raise money for various park projects, and would be out there weeding with other volunteers on weekends

When he left that position, he concentrated his time on championing small businesses in the Castro and became administrator for the Castro Merchants Association. Magary also volunteered at the Conard House and was honored by the City of San Francisco for his significant work.

Born in Canandaigua New York, his family soon after moved to Pasadena, where he grew up.



A graduate of the University of San Francisco with a degree in economics, he worked for the Bank of America specializing in loans to minority-owned businesses. Afterward he became Chief Financial Officer for American Shared Hospital Services, the first company to lease mobile CT scan units to hospitals across the West.

Richard will be remembered for his wit and humor, his love of San Francisco and his great humanity. To know him, as many of us in the neighborhood did, was to love him. He is survived by his sister Phyllis Kessel and two nieces. A bright light has gone out.

## Start Training Now!

The Zappos Running Bay to Breakers is on Sunday, May 15. Register at [www.letsdothis.com](http://www.letsdothis.com) Fee: \$49.99. Howard & Embarcadero at 8 am.

## A Cole Valley Success Story

Cole Hardware received status as a Legacy Business in 2016. But it wasn't until now that they received a handsome brass plaque funded by the SF Office of Small Business, which administers the city's Legacy Business Program. Cole Hardware was founded by Dave Karp in 1920.

Karp purchased the store in 1959. He ran the entire operation as a one-man band out of the tiny space that is now the warehouse and storage area for its Cole Street store.



From left to right: Rick Karp, Adrianna, Dave and David (who was named for his grandfather).

Dave had a genuine desire to help everyone who walked through his door—ideally making them laugh along the way. Cole Hardware thrived under his stewardship, and eventually things got busy enough that his wife, Margie, started spending her days as the store cashier. Dave and his little store grew to become a much-loved mainstay of Cole Valley. His approach to running his business could be summed up by the sign he hung over the cash register, with this motto: “There are no strangers here, just friends we haven't met.”

Rick Karp, the company's current president and “Keeper of the Karma,” started as the official floor sweeper in 1963 at the age of 13. It wasn't always Rick's plan to make a career in hardware, but Cole Hardware grew to occupy a special place in his heart, and a few years after graduating



At CVIA's 2014 summer social, Dave Karp was honored for his unparalleled contribution to the Cole Valley neighborhood.

from college, he happily joined Dave as a business partner. Rick's first big project after joining the business was to expand the store into the building next door when it became available. With that experience under his belt, and the store continuing to thrive, Rick was able to take the opportunity

to grow the business enough to serve other neighborhoods around San Francisco—opening one store roughly every 10 years. The company looks a lot different today than in those early days when Dave and Margie were running the show all on their own, but they keep Dave's motto in their hearts as a guiding principle to make the stores a welcoming and fun place for all to shop. Rick coined his own customer-service-oriented phrase that gets repeated a lot as well: “Do whatever it takes to create positive dinner time conversation for the customer!”

## Native Plant Sale April 16

Get the next addition to your garden on Saturday, April 16 from 10-2 pm at the Sutro Native Plant Nursery. All plants are native to San Francisco and grown on Mount Sutro making them well adapted to the local climate and are drought resilient—not to mention all the butterflies, birds, and insects that these plants support and help make a garden and the city thrive. Proceeds from the sale help support the programs and restoration efforts on Mount Sutro. Masks are required to enter the nursery. Directions, parking and forms of payment at [sutrostewards.org](http://sutrostewards.org).

## POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Chris Pedrini holds community forums the fourth Thursday of every month (except December) from 6 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. Join the meeting via Zoom. To register, search “Park Station Newsletters” and follow the prompts.



February 24, March 24, April 28.  
*Mark Your Calendar*

## A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes  
2022 Merchant Participants

Cole Cleaners, 930 Cole Associates,  
Crepes on Cole, Finnegan's Wake,  
Wooden Coffeehouse

# Roller Skate Ground Mural Approved by Rec and Park

A ground mural featuring a golden roller skate surrounded by a psychedelic pattern may add new color to a legendary skating spot in Golden Gate Park after the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission voted unanimously to approve the final design.

The 28-foot by 93-foot oval mural planned for the asphalt of Skatin' Place, the park's outdoor skating rink between 6th Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive, will next go

Photo:Hoodline.com.



Proposed ground mural at the "Skatin' Place" between Fulton Street and JFK Drive at 6th Avenue.

before the San Francisco Arts Commission for final review. Created by Bay Area artist and longtime Golden Gate Park skater Aimee Bruckner, the design honors San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, and the park's rollerskating history with a counterculture-themed color scheme, a reference to the Golden Gate Bridge and a roller skate in the center circle

The simple design supports spatial orientation for skaters to maintain their balance as they glide around and over it. The mural would be created using yellow, orange, red, teal, and purple asphalt acrylic paint, a durable material that resists fading or peeling from heavy use. A weather resistant sports coating system would allow simple maintenance and retouching.

The project is a collaboration between the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and David Miles Jr., founder of the Church of 8 Wheels and longtime skating advocate and steward of Skatin' Place. The Church of 8 Wheels and Rec and Park hosted two community meetings to solicit feedback and ideas on design proposals.

Roller skating in Golden Gate Park has a long history. John McLaren, the park's designer and first superintendent, built a roller rink at the Children's Playground in 1891. More than a century later, the skating community continues to celebrate the joy of rolling at Skatin' Place. The area has become of symbol of self-expression, movement, acceptance, and diversity, creating a strong community of skaters and supporters.

—SF Rec and Park

### CVIA Officers

- President.....Carole Glosenger
- Treasurer .....Joan Downey
- Recording Secretary .....Karen Crommie
- Media Outreach..... Chris Hock
- Membership .....Lena Emmery
- Special Projects .....Joan Downey
- Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

# New Cole Valley Career

Among the many things I love about Cole Valley are those occasional "pop ups" that can momentarily alter one's intended course and potentially brighten one's day. On a recent Saturday, I stumbled upon Lorraine Barrabee, a former practicing attorney in the city and a previous Cole Valley



Photo: Lorraine Barrabee

resident whose son attended Grattan, selling some of her homemade baked goods at 726 Cole Street. This is the location well known to Cole Valley residents for selling Daniel Streetman's Bird and Bear Coffee on Saturdays. (See article on page 4).

Lorraine Barrabee discovered her inner baker.

Due to the pandemic, she began baking and, in no time at all, through the encouragement of friends and neighbors, a cottage industry was born. She now sells her sourdough bagels, scones, English muffins, cookies and gluten free granola on the last Saturday of every month at 726 Cole Street between the hours of 10 am and whenever she sells out. She also delivers to customers' homes twice a month on Tuesdays for orders of \$25.00 or more. For more information, contact her at 3birdsbagels@gmail.com or stop by 726 Cole Street on February 26th. Be forewarned, you may find her baked goods addicting. I know I have and am all the better for it.

—Marianne Hesse

# Alice Neel Retrospective Coming to DeYoung on March 12

The DeYoung Museum is presenting the first comprehensive museum survey of work by American artist Alice Neel (1900–1984) on the West Coast.



Alice Neel, self portrait (1976).

Artist, Humanist, Individualist, Neel was one of the great American painters of the twentieth century and a pioneer among women artists. A painter of people, landscape and still life, Neel was never fashionable or in step with avant-garde movements. Sympathetic to the expressionists of Europe and Scandinavia and to the darker arts of Spanish painting, Alice Neel's style and approach was distinctively her own. March 12 to July 10.

## 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), and the Waller Center Advisory Committee.

### Virtual Meeting (Zoom) –February 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$21,256.05, with \$8,759.73 held in the Clean Cole Street fund. She also reported that new administrative assistant Susan Pedrick is a welcome addition to assist her mailing and accounting, preparing the monthly agenda for board meetings, updating our Facebook page and website and regularly transmit member messages through MailChimp.

■ Joan also reported that CleanScapes has resumed its twice a day cleaning of the Cole Valley commercial district. (They had cut it to once a day during the COVID emergency.) Five businesses immediately responded to our first post-COVID request for an annual contribution of \$350: 930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners, Crepes on Cole, Finnegan's Wake and Wooden.

■ Lena Emmery reported that Park Station has increased beat cops, this in spite of the fact that the SFPD is currently down 240 police officers.

■ Agreed that CVIA should strongly support the Parnassus Heights-Calvin Welch lawsuit against UCSF for breaking its 1978 agreement to contain size of its Parnassus Medical Center. President Carole Glosenger to send letter. Also agreed that Chris Hock will post a flyer asking for objections to the height and bulk of the new buildings be sent to city leaders.

■ After a long discussion on the compulsory extension of District-5 boundaries, Board decided that, irrespective of other considerations, to insist that The Redistricting Task Force be urged to keep CVIA's boundaries together.

■ After another long discussion on the topic banning of cars on JFK Drive, no consensus could be reached. CVIA will remain neutral. On the issue of free admission to the Japanese Tea Garden and the SF Botanical Garden, the Board deferred to Rec and Park.

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

## Booksmith Event

Booksmith is hosting a virtual event with Sasha Fletcher to celebrate his debut novel "Be Here to Love Me at the End of the World." He'll be in conversation with the one and only Daniel Handler on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

This event is free and open to all ages, but RSVP is required. You can do so by going to the Booksmith website [Booksmith.com](http://Booksmith.com). You can also order "Be Here to Love Me at the End of the World" there.



## Mount Sutro in a New Light

Last week I was fortunate enough to enjoy an extraordinary visit to Mount Sutro. We were accompanied by Ildiko Polony, Executive Director of the Sutro Stewards, on what turned out to be much more than a walk in the woods.

Her knowledge of the intimate details of the mountain was immensely interesting and revealed the space in an entirely new way.

Ildiko educated us on the interactions between the many different species that share the space. Fascinating facts emerged from her vast knowledge and understanding of the ecology. Some of the native plants that had been obscured by undergrowth were able to grow anew, once the areas were cleared, because they have underground storage of their seeds and tubers. Nature awaits with patience. Many more nuggets of knowledge emerged as we toured the forest.

As we walked the mountain, we were greeted by goats that were brought in to clear the undergrowth. They are a



delight to watch as they methodically eat whatever is in their path.

Personalized tours of Mount Sutro can cover such topics as: the history of Mount Sutro, its ethnobotany, ecology, vegetation management plan, the conservation plan, restoration sites, and other programs and projects of the Sutro Stewards, including their Native Plant Nursery.



*Photo: Lena Emmery*  
Above is at the Clarendon entrance to Mt. Sutro with stones from former UCSF buildings.

For individuals or groups of up to 10 people, get in touch with Executive Director Ildiko Polony to discuss your interests, set a date and determine the cost for the tour, at [ildiko@sutrostewards.org](mailto:ildiko@sutrostewards.org) or 415-559-7482.

The Mountain will never look quite the same to you!

—Lena Emmery



### *The Success of Grattan School, continued from page 3.*

“But the economic downturn didn’t destroy the school. On the contrary, it probably indirectly saved Grattan. Educational research suggests that integrating white students into poorer schools attended by minorities is one of the surest ways to improve those schools and benefit minority students. After the dot-com collapse, some impacted families stayed in San Francisco, but started attending public school. As a result, Grattan’s demographics shifted: wealthier, white students entered the school. And the school soon began to improve dramatically.

“Grattan was an increasingly diverse and successful school. Unfortunately, things didn’t stop there. In 2016, the school was one of the highest performing elementary schools in the city, but also one of the whitest and the most affluent — an “elite” “white” school in a city where public schools have a majority of low-income students. In the meantime the city’s overall trend towards racial isolationism had only gotten worse.”

That was then, this is now. Over the last five years, the Unified School District has attempted to correct this unintended segregation. Especially at Grattan, where in a population of some 400 students, 47 percent of students are non-white. African American enrollment is now at 3.4 percent, still down from the 6% of the city’s black population. Parent involvement and financial support is still strong and even though the school’s academic stats have taken a slight dip, it is a school we can all be proud of. Go to [www.sfusd.edu/school/grattan-elementary-school](http://www.sfusd.edu/school/grattan-elementary-school) to learn more.

—Karen Crommie

## Red Victorian For Sale: Dean Preston Has an Idea!

For Sami Sunchild, it was always the 70s. That’s when she purchased a broken-down hotel in the heart of the Haight and refurbished some of it just well enough to attract young tourists. She painted the exterior red and called it the Red Victorian Bed and Breakfast. Sami eventually kicked out



the movie cooperative on the ground floor and turned the space into a breakfast room and gallery where she exhibited art work, principally her own. There she founded the Peaceful World Founda-

tion and registered the property in its name. After her death in 2013 it was occupied by various new age groups, but recently was put on the market for \$5 million.

Such a deal, thought our Supervisor Dean Preston, whose February 13 tweet proclaimed, “Big opportunity for the City to acquire the Red Vic. I have been urging the Administration to buy it for TAY housing and services but so far HSH has refused. Great space for housing and a drop-in center in the heart of the Haight.”

—Karen Crommie

*Note: HSH refers to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. TAY refers to transition age youth 18-24 who are moving from public systems such as foster care.*

## Kezar Bar and Grill Reboot

It started with a plan to bring a few things up to code and a bit of updating—one thing led to the next and here we are 8+ months later with not only the needed improvements in plumbing and electrical and fresh coat of paint but a down to the studs remodel.

Admittedly I was a bit nervous about the changes. Kezar at Carl and Cole after all has been an integral part of Cole Valley for decades. It’s not just a place to grab dinner and a



*Jim Angelus, proprietor of Bacon Bacon, took over ownership of the venerable Cole Valley mainstay from Steve Schick last year.*

drink, it’s a place to run into neighbors, meet up with friends and even form new friendships. But after recently sitting down with owner Jim Angelus to get an update (and sneak peak) on the status of this beloved corner restaurant and bar,



*Among other upgrades the counter and back bar have been refinished.*

I am officially excited about what we will find when the doors open again.

Jim really understands that the Kezar is part of the soul of Cole Valley, when I asked him about what changes we can expect to see, what will remain the same, what will be different and what drove his remodel decisions, he responded by saying that it was important to “respect that this is a neighborhood treasure. This place means a lot to a lot of people- I’m using this as the guiding principle.”

So what changes can we expect to see? The overall layout is essentially the same, with some improvements I think

we can all get behind.

For those of you who want to belly up to the bar, worry not, the bar, and the beautiful back bar (which has been carefully refinished), is still in the same place. The tables in the bar area on the Cole Street side will be replaced with a bar height counter and stools. The tables and small banquette on the Carl side of the bar area will be replaced with booths.

There are a few surprises in the dining room area including booths on the south side of the room and banquette seating on the wall behind the bar. The banquette seating area will be able to accommodate larger groups when needed.

There will still be outdoor heated seating along the sidewalks of both Carl and Cole as well as seating in the street parklet.

Expect to see some familiar staff members along with several new faces. Chef Lacie Smith will be back to make us our favorite dishes. Burgers and those famous hand cut fries will continue to be menu staples, but we should expect to see several new dishes and menu updates that include locally sourced ingredients. There will be daily specials to look forward to as well as seasonal menu changes.

The cocktail menu is also expanding to include even more unique, handcrafted, specialty cocktails. There will be several beers on tap and in addition to bottled wine, they will be serving a house white and a house red on tap!

Of course the big question is when will the doors open? As of the end of February, when I talked to Jim, he said he is hoping for a mid March reopening, but that timing is dependent on many factors. We'll keep you updated!

—Shannon Cooper Hock

## Postscripts

“The **N-Judah** tracks need oiling in the Cole Valley area,” reported CVIA president **Carole Glosenger** to **Jeffrey Tumlin** of the **SFMTA**. “There’s an ear-piercing sound when the streetcar navigates the curve coming out of and entering the Sunset Tunnel at Carl and Cole, and the curve at Carl and Arguello. Multiple calls to 311 do not seem to have had an effect so hope you can get this relatively quick and easy job done.”



\* \* \*



**The Chabad of Cole Valley** celebrated Tu B'Shvat last month by volunteering in Golden Gate Park. The group, made up of more than 20 young people and parents pulled weeds and even planted seven Douglass iris plants.

Elections R us. Four candidates were running in the recent election for the State Assembly District 17 seat left empty



Photo: sfxaminer.com

by the appointment of **David Chiu** to City Attorney: **David Campos, Matt Haney, Thea Selby, Bilal Mahmood**. Since none received a majority of the vote on February 15, there will be a special general election between top two vote-getters **Haney** and **Campos** on April 19. That will make **four** separate trips to the polls in one year.

\* \* \*

Have your knives sharpened on Saturday, February 26 at **Cole Hardware**. Drop them off before 3 pm. In addition to knives, bring scissors, garden pruners and clippers. It's knife sharpening while you wait from **Matt of Golden State Sharpening**. And it's quick: about a minute per knife!



\* \* \*

Some very good news from **Jake Sigg's "SF Nature Education"**: Great Blue Herons have returned to the nests at



Photo credit: Helene Sobol

Stow Lake. CVIA Board member **Joan Downey** reports having seen **four** separate nests on the island. “We are off to a good start for Heron Season 2022,” says Jake.

\* \* \*

On January 31 the Budget and Legislative Analyst published a bombshell report commissioned by D-5 Supervisor Dean Preston on residential vacancies in San Francisco. The report finds that more than 40,000 units are being held off the market. Be assured he has a proposal to tax them.

Karen Crommie

# CVIA Supports Affordable Housing at 730 Stanyan But Not an 80 ft. High Monolith



## Two of Many Letters Copied to CVIA

May I please encourage you to look very carefully at the institutions who want to take charge of the new building on the McDonald’s lot. It looks to me that, besides being totally out of scale with the neighbors, developers who, at the last minute want to add additional stories—facilities, designs etc.—are exactly the ones who take the money and then run for the hills. Nonprofits are not sacrosanct.

More is not always better—we have learned all too often. Please support the lower height limit and an increase of—as far as I am concerned—only low rent units.

Rita Felciano

I am a 45 year resident of Stanyan St. I am very strongly opposed to the plan to build a hulking block at the entrance to GG park, looming over Haight St, Waller St and especially the newly (and wonderfully) upgraded park entrance.

It appears the input of those most affected by this project have simply been ignored.

Please stop this project and restart the process with serious consideration of the input from the CVIA and the residents of the area.

Howard Berman

**You can review the developers’ presentation at [#5](http://www.730stanyan.org/community-meetings)**

Contact emails to express your opinion on its size and design:

**Mayor London Breed:** [MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org](mailto:MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org)

**D-5 Supervisor Dean Preston:** [dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org)

**Planning Director Rick Hillis:** [rich.hillis@sfgov.org](mailto:rich.hillis@sfgov.org)

**Phil Ting :** [Assembly.member.ting@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assembly.member.ting@assembly.ca.gov)

*(Please also copy [board@cviastf.org](mailto:board@cviastf.org))*

**CVIANEWS** is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2022 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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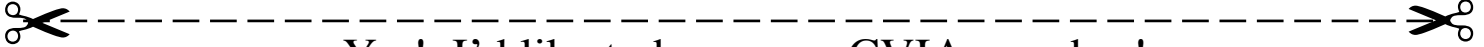
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# BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) is a non-profit, 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

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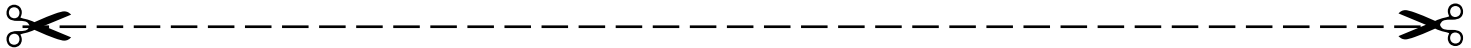
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