

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLIV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY WINTER 2023

Santa's Back on Cole Street! Sunday, December 3

Come and have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to a mall or waiting in long lines. The best part is that the proceeds help fund **Clean Cole Street**, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day.

This year we are delighted to welcome "Sasha" of Sasha Photography who will be donating a day of his time for the good



Photo: Loic Nicolas

Santa loves all children. Shown here with Lennyn and Kimberlin Lague.

of the neighborhood. Our beloved Loic Nicolas, has retired and highly recommended Sasha to take his place.

As always, Chuck Canepa is our handsome Santa. He even bought his own Santa suit a few years ago and so is fully committed—we hope. Chuck not only looks good, but he's also great with the kids. And, yes, this is the same Chuck who organizes the car show for the Cole Valley Fair.

Maryo Mogannam graciously allows us to use Postal Chase for the event every year. Board members serve as "elves" who usher the kids and parents through the process, while trying to calm the littlest ones who are not too sure about the guy with the white beard (although those in distress sometimes make the best photos).

Please come by with your kids, grand kids, dogs, or yourself on Sunday, December 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$3. Digital files are \$19 to \$39, depending on resolution. Photos are available within 24 hours.

—Joan Downey

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 7 from 4 to 8 p.m.

(also the first night of Hanukkah)

McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan St., Golden Gate Park

Cole Valley Merchants Unite

We are happy to report, that, at long last, the business owners of Cole Valley have formed an association that will be instrumental in the marketing of our very special commercial area. The new group will also include some merchants that are on the edges of Cole Valley, a great idea.



Jim Angelus owns both Cole Valley Tavern and Bacon Bacon,

Jim Angelus (Cole Valley Tavern/Bacon Bacon), and Dan Serot (Finnegans Wake) came to the October CVIA Board meeting to explain the genesis of the Cole Valley Merchants Association

and what they hope to accomplish for the neighborhood.

Those who have stepped up to lead the Cole Valley Merchants Association are as follows:

President.....Dan Serot of **Finnegans Wake**
 Vice President.....Abbe Clemons of **Simple**
 Secretary.....Jim Angelus of **Cole Valley Tavern**
 Treasurer.....Steve Wickwire of **Wooden**
 Marketing Officer.....Megan Cornelius of **Zazie**
 General Board Member...Jeni Gamble of **Gamble+Design**
 General Board Member.....Vince Vizcaino of **Luke's**
 General Board Member.....Rick Karp of **Cole Hardware**

While the size of Cole Valley's commercial area is small, it's the heart of the neighborhood. Although the interests of residents and merchants are not always parallel, CVIA believes that working with their outstanding Board of Directors will ultimately benefit both.

—Lena Emmerly

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Dear Cole Valley Neighbors,

On September 24, I joined CVIA at the very well-attended 19th Annual Cole Valley Fair. Congratulations to Sunset



Supervisor Mandelman and CVIA president Carole Glosenger at the Cole Valley Fair.

Mercantile on another successful event! I met with the newly formed Cole Valley Merchants Association (CVMA) on September 26 and discussed ways for our City to provide resources and assistance to small business owners. I look forward to our continued partnership as the organization grows.

Loving Our Neighborhoods: My office has received many complaints from neighbors regarding notices placed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) that cite businesses for having unpermitted sidewalk encroachments such as the recent story of a mini library that was issued a notice near Carl & Cole Streets. (See page 9.) I am a co-sponsor of the proposed Love our Neighborhoods legislation, which will cut red tape and make it much easier and cheaper for people to apply for permission to install beautification projects and amenities that serve the public. The legislation is expected to pass before the end of 2023. For anyone who receives a citation notice from DPW, please call the number listed on the flier and request an extension. DPW has stated that they will grant extensions until the program takes effect.

Encampment Resolutions: Clarifying the Ryu Injunction: For those of you who have been following the long saga of San Francisco's struggle with unsheltered homelessness, there have been important developments over the summer. Since December, the City has been grappling with the implications of an injunction issued by Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu in a lawsuit brought against the City by the Coalition on Homelessness and ACLU. The precise meaning of the injunction has been much disputed, but one plausible (though troubling) interpretation has been that the City could not dismantle encampments even when the City had offered alternative shelter. And the City had been unable to get Judge Ryu to issue a clarification. On September 5, the Ninth Circuit did issue a clarification, noting that individuals who had received and refused real offers of shelter should not be considered "involuntarily homeless" and thus were not within the scope of the injunction's language.

The Coalition's lawsuit will continue, but meanwhile, the Ninth Circuit clarification will allow City staff to move ahead with encampment resolutions to the extent the City has shelter available to offer. Which, in my mind at least, again highlights the great need to move forward with implementation of my Place for All legislation, which would provide a safe exit from the streets for any unhoused person willing to accept it and allow us to move forward with consistent encampment removal citywide.

—Rafael Mandelman
District 8 Supervisor

Ed. note—Supervisor Mandelman has been in the forefront of both local and state initiatives to ensure that those struggling with addiction get the serves they need including SB 43 (See CARE on page 5.) Above is an excerpt from the Supervisor's newsletter. To read the entire letter and for periodic updates on the work of his office, please contact Mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org, or call (415) 554-6968.

Two Opportunities for New Restaurants On Haight Street

Haight Street restaurant spaces don't usually stay vacant for very long. Since there has been a moratorium on new restaurants in the area for many years, anytime one restaurant closes, multiple offers usually flow to the landlord. As reported by the SF Chronicle, the 39-year old family run taqueria at the corner of Shrader and Haight closed at the end of June due to a mounting debt of back rent owed. Almost immediately, "for lease" signs went up but no sign of remodel activity yet.



Down the street, a message in the window also appeared at 1466 Haight announcing the impending closure of VeganBurg. The vegan burger restaurant chain's website advertises its flagship locations are still open in Singapore. But the local franchisee had been trying to sell the location along with a franchise license for almost a year. The unique concept for a vegan only burger restaurant had received some food media attention with their very short two burger menu when it launched in 2015. The "business opportunity" listing online said that the restaurant had earned over \$2 million in sales pre-pandemic but that recent receipts were down significantly in spite of securing a beer & wine license. Long time residents may remember the same space was previously occupied by the neighborhood-serving diner All You Knead.

—Christin Evans
Haight Ashbury Merchants Association

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Jack Hart holds community forums the Fourth Wednesday of every month (except December) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller). Or join the meeting via Zoom. To register go to: <https://bit.ly/ParkCommMtgAugust2021>



November 22, January 24, February 28.
Mark Your Calendar



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. The daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period November 2022 to October 2023. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1,000) Anonymous, Jonathan Claybaugh, Robert Goodman, Abby & David M. Rumsey

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500) Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Karen & David Crommie, Pam & James Diwik, Jennifer Braun & Raymond Ryan, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors: (\$100 - \$249) Anonymous, Gina Bartlett, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Chris Bunga, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Souza, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Melissa & Glen Gee, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Drew Howells-Tabacco, Ice Cream Bar Attn: Juliet Pries, Catherine & Brian Kane, Steven Kerekes, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Wallis & Michelle Lim, Barbara & John Manning, Jane & Michael Miller, Janan New, Robert Page, Michael Rafferty, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Nicole Valco, Mary Ann Wolcott

Contributors: (\$50 - \$99) Alma Management / Sigrid Schafmann, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, William Barnaby, Molly Barry, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Sheila Cordon, Frances Dependahl, Carole Glosenger, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Douglas Hall, Mary & John Hooper, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Dianne & Steve Leonoudakis, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Susan & Steven Rosen, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters: (\$25 - \$49) Anonymous, Chantal Byrne, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Steven Madrid, Jamie & Michael Moore, Adele Dorison & David Neuman, Alex & Kenneth Nicholson, Laura Onopchenko, Francine M. Prophet, Helen & Allan Ridley, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Marie Samson, Bruce Steir, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Estelle & Edward Tomoda, Edward C. Walls, Ken Wilcox, Cack & Doug Wilhelm, Ann Williamson, Susannah Wise

Boosters: (\$24 and below) Rob Bakewell, Lynn Eubanks, Maryann Hrichak, Denise Lever, John Priest

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2023 Merchant Participants

930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake, Ino Vino, Luke's Local, MARJANG Architectur, Postal Chase, Wooden Coffeeshouse

Francis Dependahl

June 26, 1949 - September 2, 2023

Francis Elizabeth Dependahl was born on June 26, 1949 to Edna Willeford Dependahl and Eugene William Dependahl, residents of St. Louis, Missouri. Fran was the middle child and had two sisters;



Carol Dependahl-Ripperda and Deborah Dependahl Waters. Fran graduated from Berkeley Sr. High School '67, and from Colorado State University in '71 with a degree in Anthropology. Fran moved to San Francisco in 1972 and took a job at UCSF.

During her long tenure she worked for many important scientists and doctors. She also had stints at various biotech startups, supporting CEOs and managing conferences/events. Fran retired in 2016 after surviving cancer and spent her days visiting the SF botanical gardens, taking photographs and walking many miles across the city. She loved to stop at her favorite neighborhood wine bar-Ino Vino-for an afternoon aperitif. She was well known and loved by her community in the Cole Valley neighborhood. Fran was also a member of the Commonwealth Club's leadership circle and regularly attended their conferences.

Cole Fair: Sweet and Lovely

It was a beautiful day for the Cole Valley Fair this year. The booth suppliers arrived on time and the merchants patiently unloaded their

Photo: Shannon Cooper Hock.



CVIA president Carole Glosenger and treasurer Joan Downey arrive early—ready for a long day selling the Cole/Carl T-shirts.

boxes, everything from fine jewelry to baby clothes—photography to hand-thrown pots. Rather than attracting people from all over the city, the

Photo: Joan Downey



Taiko: Some women fear the fire, others become it!

event proved once again that a street fair can actually benefit the residents and be an enhancement to the community itself.

C o l e Street, between Grattan and Frederick, was packed with

families pushing strollers, dogs in tow, waiting in line with their little ones for a turn in the bouncy house. Some neighbors generously volunteered to help fair director Angie Petitt-Taylor and her team from Sunset Mercantile, producers of the event. Others manned stalls, or performed, but most just stopped to talk to friends, grab a snack, chat with the cops and Supervisor Mandelman, participate in the kid-oriented activities and appraise the beautifully displayed wares in the wide

Photo: Marianne Hesse



A highlight of the fair was Acrosports' special anniversary show.



variety of booths. Besides all that, there was Chuck Canepa's vintage automobile exhibit lining Parnassus with beloved vehicles, their proud owners waiting hopefully for an opportunity to answer questions about performance or provenance.

Photos: Joan Downey

But probably the biggest draw was Jessica Justino's annual Cole Valley History display, always mounted on the exterior south wall of Luke's Local. Not only has she blown up early photos of the neighborhood, but also each year features some particular aspect of contemporary life. This year it was "Quirky Cole Valley."



Neighborhood historian, Jessica Justino, featured oddball aspects of Cole Valley in this year's display.

—Karen Crommie

Don't Forget the Neighborhood During the Holidays

"Shop local" isn't just a slogan. It's a way to support our neighborhood whether you identify with Cole valley or Haight



Ashbury, but also to save yourself time and expand your vision of gift solutions that are a bit unusual. **Cole Hardware** is, of course, ground zero for gifts from

tools to small kitchen luxuries. While neighborhood restaurants all offer gift certificates, and what better gift than a dinner out? A gift certificate for **Crepes on Cole** or **Ino Vino** would brighten anyone's day. **Cole Pets** is brim full with gifts for animal lovers, and the charming and **Simple** shop on Carl, with its curated selection of completely unique ecology-minded treasures is a natural for conservationists. A 6-month membership for training at **Midline Studio** can change a person's life. Then there's the venerable **Booksmith** for the gift certificate allowing someone the pleasure of picking out a brand new book and **Mendels** for artsy craftsy people of all ages. Walk around, sniff out the good stuff.

How Well Do You Know Cole Valley's Dogs?

Just put **Cole Valley Pets** in your search engine, go down four entries to **YELP** and view a rogues gallery of over 400 dogs and

With Summer Ending, Coyote Dispersal Season Begins

As we move from summer to fall, coyotes are beginning their seasonal shift from denning to dispersal. During dispersal, young coyotes are likely to be more visible across San Francisco as they roam through neighborhoods, parks, and green spaces searching for



denning sites. While these sightings can be thrilling, it's important to remember that coyotes are wild animals. Here are some tips to ensure safe coexistence with our natural neighbors:

- Keep dogs leashed and cats indoors. While rare, small dogs and cats can be viewed as prey. Keep both your pet and coyotes safe by staying vigilant.
- Do not approach coyotes, and instead admire them from a distance. If a coyote approaches you, pick up small children or pets, be loud and retreat slowly from the area.

If you encounter a coyote or see someone putting out food for a coyote, report it to the Animal Care and Control Department at ACC@sfgov.org. This allows us to better understand coyote activity across the city and focus our coyote coexistence outreach in hotspot neighborhoods.

(Photo from the documentary "Don't Feed the Coyotes")

Substantive Help For Those Who Can't Help Themselves

Starting this month, San Francisco is one of the first seven counties in California to apply the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act—a state law that will allow a range of individuals to make a referral or directly submit a petition for a mentally ill client or loved one to access wraparound care and stabilized housing.



This is a long time coming. How many do we have to see die on the street while others take pride in preserving their right of self-determination? State Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, D-Stockton carried the measure to success. This is an important change for San Francisco, and Mayor Breed has directed all departments to begin the work of removing barriers and devising programs to implement Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) with efficiency once it goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

Reverie Has a Replacement

Okay, we've mourned the loss of Reverie Café for long enough. Let's get prepared to welcome a new eating spot coming soon to take its place. Yes, it will probably lack the cool ambiance of Reverie, in that spot for over 20 years, but it will fill the now-dead storefront with a viable business.

You've probably read on the posted notice from Alcohol Beverage Control on the front door regarding the manufacturing of beer. Well, yes and no. Woods Beer & Wine plans to open at 848 Cole early next year but will not be actually brewing on site.

The SF Chronicle's Mario Cortez writes that, "The new space is Woods' seventh location, with sister spots around the city, including



Jim Woods, shown here behind the bar at his Island Club, is bringing one of his formula beer and burger eateries to Cole Street.

Treasure Island. (Wait a minute, doesn't that make it a chain (formula retail), necessitating Conditional Use Authority which will delay approval. Or is that now moot in light of the desperate need to fill empty spaces?)

"The pub will feature one of the Bay Area's top burger specialists. Chefs from Lovely's, in Oakland, will be preparing its acclaimed "drive thru" burgers and Oklahoma-style fried onion burgers.

Woods told Cortez that, "He fell in love with the Cole Valley space when it was Reverie Cafe, and wanted to keep the building's functional layout and outdoor areas. "The patio lured me in, but we want to create a community space similar to how Reverie was." No mention was made of the multiple city citations the building had received for non-compliance.

Yes, Woods Beer & Wine will directly compete with Cole Valley Tavern and the just-about-to-open Blue Barn (former Padrecito's) with the beer and burger fare, but that's the capitalism system we signed up for and (somehow) it generally works out.

Cortez writes, "Woods founded the company in 2006 and launched its first brewpub, dubbed Woods Cerveceria, in 2012 at 3801 18th St. near Dolores Park. The company operates on a "hub and spoke" model, in which a central production facility supplies company taprooms. Woods, a longtime home brewer with a commercial real estate background, said this is more sustainable than expanding to compete for supermarket shelf space with larger breweries. "It's allowed us to build a brand without going into huge debt to create a massive production scale," he said. "Looking to power its expansion efforts, Woods Beer & Wine is currently raising funds

—Karen Crommie

(With appreciation to Mario Cortez, SF Chronicle)

Academy of Sciences: Nightlife

NightLife is a weekly event where attendees ages 21+ can enjoy music, science, entertainment, and cocktails while experiencing the Academy's world-class exhibits. Each weekly installment features something new and different. Sunset Mercantile in partnership with



San Francisco Bazaar LLC will be curating local Sunset vendors for their NightLife: Santa Claudes Workshop on Thursday, December 7th, 6-10 pm at the California Academy of Sciences located in the Golden Gate Park. Join us for a night of holiday shopping, live DJs, outdoor bars, ambiance lighting, and nearly 60,000 live animals (including familiar faces like Claude, the alligator with albinism).

Park Library Part of History

Did you know that our own Park Branch Library at 1833 Page Street is the oldest existing public library in San Francisco? Although it was constructed during the decades when other city libraries were being built with funding from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation,



The venerable 1909 building is the neighborhood's jewel.

Park Branch was built in 1909 with city funds: \$7,000 for the land and \$27,000 for the building, designed by the McDougall Brothers. The neoclassical edifice has a set-back of 30 feet to comply with the properties around it at the time, sadly, now most replaced by lot-line structures. The library hosts a constant series of events, especially for families with small children. Go to sfpl.org and click on Park Branch.

"Cars Backed Up For a Block"

CVIA received this thoughtful comment (below) from a member. We followed through and submitted a letter to SFMTA director Jeff Tumlin and also a written 311 Request for City Services. —Joan Downey

"The left turn lane from Fell Street going west turning on to Masonic needs to be redesigned. If there are more than four cars



Cars waiting to turn left on Masonic at Fell block the bicycle lane.

waiting for the turn, the bike line is blocked. Cars that slow down to check for bicyclists before crossing the bike line, have been rear-ended. Also because of the parked cars, some of which have tinted or obscured windows, it is difficult and at times impossible for drivers to see bicyclists. Also given the number of people attempting to turn left during evening rush hour, the line of cars can back up traffic for more than a block.

"Since there is a bike lane in the Panhandle, the bike lane on Fell west of Baker should be eliminated and bicycle traffic during this stretch should return to using the Panhandle bike path.

"To address the traffic issue, the parking lane on Fell to the east of Masonic should be shortened to allow a longer left turn lane. This will have a minimal effect on the amount of parking and will eliminate the traffic issues during the evening commute."

De Young's "Open" Art Exhibit

Building on the tremendous success of the inaugural de Young Open in 2020, the second triennial of this juried community art exhibition celebrates the voices and visions



The exhibition will close on January 7, 2024.

Photo: Gary Sexton

of Bay Area artists. The 883 works on view were created by artists who live in the nine counties surrounding San Francisco Bay: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. This year, 7,766 talented artists each submitted an artwork. Submissions were juried by eight curators, along with distinguished Bay Area artists Clare Rojas, Sunny Smith, Stephanie Syjuco, and Xiaozhe Xie. Artworks are hung "salon style" — installed nearly edge to edge and floor to ceiling — and grouped by theme: political and social issues, the urban environment, the human figure, nature, abstraction, and surreal imagery. Designed to support our local arts communities, this exhibition allows artists to offer their works for sale and retain the proceeds. As in 2020, we will also acquire a selection of exhibition artworks for our permanent collection.

Savor: A Great Little Restaurant in Inner Sunset

An Interview with Chef Mohamed Aboghanem

By Serena and Ansel Unger

Savor is a special new restaurant on Irving and 5th owned by Chef Mohamed Aboghanem. Every time we go, we are delighted with how flavorful and creative it is. In our house, the world famous middle eastern chef Yotam Ottolenghi is a god and having eaten at Ottolenghi in London, we can say that Savor stands up to it and in many ways, goes beyond with innovative dishes and flavors that comfort and please. Cole Valley is lucky to have this gem within walking distance. We wanted to know a little bit more about the guy behind the food since it is so obviously made with love and passion. So we decided to interview him.

Serena: Where are you from? And what was it like growing up there?

Mohamed: Yemen. It was fun growing up there. Back then there was a middle class and the economy was good. People were happy. There were five kids in my family and I was oldest.

S: When did you learn to cook?

M: I learned from my mom. She was my inspiration. I had three sisters but they were babies and I come from a culture where men were not allowed in the kitchen. I'd get in trouble from my dad for being in the kitchen.

Ansel: What were your favorite foods growing up?

M: I really liked fava bean puree for breakfast with onions, tomatoes and garlic and a poached egg on top.

S: What brought you to the Bay Area?

M: Since I was 11 years old, I'd wanted to come to San Francisco. I had a poster of the



Chef Mohamed Aboghanem

Golden Gate Bridge on my wall and I used to listen to Kiss and Twisted Sister. I told myself that when I'm older, I'm going there. I first went to Europe and then came to the U.S. in 1989. I supported myself the entire time working in restaurants.

S: What's your history as a chef in the Bay Area?

M: The first restaurant I worked at was a Greek restaurant in Oakland and I worked in the deli section. When their main cook quit, I stepped in and took his job and I did well. I went to Laney College and studied economics and then worked at several well known restaurants, like Stars and Zuni. That's how I learned. Then I opened Patisserie Cafe on Folsom Street. When the dot com boom collapsed, the neighborhood went down. I went home and traveled then came back and opened Saha on Sutter and Polk in 2004. It was hoppin! Tracy Chapman used to come in - it was her favorite!

A: When did you open Savor? Why did you start it?

M: I started Savor in June 2022. My previous restaurants were upscale. The idea is a neighborhood restaurant but people come from out of state and even out of the country; it's become a destination restaurant. There was even an article about Savor in a newspaper from Berlin. I like the location. When I was young, I promised

myself that my last place would be vegetarian. For the planet.

A: What ingredients inspire you the most?

M: Spices. All kinds of spices, not just middle eastern. Fresh herbs. I like lavender; it's one of those challenges. I do a lot with it... curries, teas. I think I'm gifted with spices coming from Yemen. It used to be on the spice route. I'm lucky I was born with spices.

A: What are your favorite dishes at Savor?

M: Everyone asks that. I like them all. They're all good and they're solid. I like whatever is in season, zucchini blossoms, mushrooms... making specials is fun. I like creating.

S: Is there anything else you'd like to tell Cole Valley?

M: Check us out! People think it's just another vegetarian restaurant and after they come, they become regulars. Savor is a middle eastern restaurant that's creative and modern. Not just typical kebabs.

Savor, 401 Irving Street at 5th Avenue

Open for lunches and dinners. See days and hours on the website: <https://savor.menu/>



Vojtech Licko was born at home in the silver-mining town Banska Stiavnica, in central Czechoslovakia in 1932. His first love was film and after high school he started in the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU). Unfortunately, his film carrier was cut short because of a lazy eye and instead he turned to his second love physics. After getting his Ph.D. in Biophysics, in 1963, he



headed to The University of Chicago on a 3-year US grant, having to leave his wife and young daughter behind the iron curtain. With a second Ph.D. in Mathematical Biology in 1966, he returned home. In August of 1968, while the family were on vacation in Croatia, the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia and instead of returning home, they headed for Austria, where they spent three months in a refugee camp in Vienna before they could secure visas to USA. Thanks to colleagues from his Chicago-stay, he was also able to secure a post at UCSF, where he taught mathematical biology and developed mathematical models for biological systems. After retirement as full Professor from UCSF, he consulted for NIDA and FDA as well as for several biotech companies in Silicon Valley. Besides science Vojtech's big love was music which, for him, meant classical music.

CVIA Board Minutes

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

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

Meeting at the Home of Carole Glosenger on September 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Guests: Dan Serot, Jim Angelus, Steve Leonoudakis

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$19,974.79 with \$4,028.62 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). She announced that the final tab for the Summer Social was \$2,750.

■ Approved unanimously: A letter to SFMTA director Jeffrey Tumlin saying that, CVIA supports our neighbors on Frederick Street in their efforts to increase safety at the intersection of Frederick and Shrader. The neighbors have submitted a traffic calming program application asking the SFMTA to take action on Frederick between Stanyan and Cole, calling for low-cost, easy-to-implement projects like those you touted in your talk at the CVIA Summer Social. In addition to the calming petition, the neighbors have also submitted several 311 requests for high-visibility crosswalk markings and relocating the southwest stop sign to be more visible. We'd love your support in advancing these requests to help prevent further injuries and close calls at the intersection.

■ Dan Serot and Jim Angelus reported on the first meeting of the Cole Valley Merchants and its establishment as a non-profit corporation. They shared the challenges of starting up an organization that has long been needed.

■ Discussed pricing of the Cole/Carl T-shirts to be sold at the upcoming Fair. The price was decided at \$20 including tax. This will mean about \$7 in profit for CVIA. Note: After washing, shrinkage was found to be minimal.

■ Discussed "lessons learned" from recent Summer Social. It was suggested that 1) we provide small waxed cardboard boxes for members to take home uneaten food 2) Place a sign at the drinks table listing the selection of beers 3) designate a "mic runner" to make sure all member questions are heard by the speaker 4) indicate the time the "program" is to begin so that attendees will be there 5) manage the time each speaker holds the floor - cutting off after a reasonable amount of questions.

■ Discussed the traffic problems on Frederick Street. Joan to draft a letter to the SFMTA about this, including the wind-screen issue, and the left turn from Fell onto Masonic.

■ Shannon Cooper offered to write an article about Savor restaurant in the Inner Sunset and the efficient use of the 5 minute parking zones on Cole Street.

■ Discussed whether to host the photo op with Santa Claus this year considering the return of COVID. President Carole Glosenger to speak with Chuck Canepa (our traditional Santa) about this.

■ Guests invited for the October 2 meeting will be the new head legislative assistant to Supervisor Mandelman, Calvin Ho (replacing Ross Green) and Christin Evans, commissioner on the new Homelessness Oversight Commission. Veronica Lempert to extend the invitation to Ho, Karen Crommie to contact Christin Evans. This meeting will be held at the home of Shannon Cooper and Chris Hock.

Adjourned at 9:20 pm

Meeting at the Home of Shannon Cooper and Chris Hock on October 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Guests: Calvin Ho, new legislative aide to Supervisor Mandelman; and Homeless Oversight Commissioners Christin Evans and Sharky Laguana.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$13,429.25 with \$4,028.62 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). She noted that the Cole Valley Fair resulted in eight membership renewals and seven new members. She deposited \$750 in cash and checks and transferred \$1,457.11 from PayPal's Zettle (point of sale app).

■ Joan led a discussion of proposed letter to the MTA asking: (1) when the graffiti-resistant replacement screens will be installed at Carl and Cole? It's been a year! (2) for action on the earlier requests from Frederick Street neighbors for traffic calming solutions, which include painting high-visibility crosswalk markings; relocating the stop sign to be more visible; "daylighting" the corners; and installing flashing beacons; (3) a redesign of the left turn lane from Fell Street going west turning on to Masonic. If there are more than four cars waiting for the turn, the bike line is blocked. (See article on page 6.)

■ CVIA's booth at the Cole Valley Fair was discussed at length. President Carole Glosenger will make an inventory of the remaining T-shirts and report next month. Lessons learned from this year's Fair include: Color choices of T-shirts should be noticeably different: the placement of the tables was excellent but a schematic of table placement (and number) must be made available to the set-up team. A CVIA QR code was a good idea but did not provide a direct link to membership application. The renewal form needs updating; booth's back wall mural was too large—trim or replace. Have a map (poster size) at the booth clearly indicating borders of CVIA membership to stimulate interest and questions.

■ Presentation on the newly formed Homeless Oversight Commission (HOC) by members Christian Evans and Sharky Laguana. The commission was launched in May 2023 after San Francisco voters approved its creation through a ballot measure in November 2022. It is the main body that oversees the work of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH). The HOC's main responsibilities include: Approving budgets, formulating goals, establishing performance standards, holding hearings, conducting public education, outreach, and performance audits of HSH's service delivery. Obviously, an enormous agenda. Christian and Sharky spoke at length about the challenges they are facing and of their confidence in the leadership and management of

HSH director, Shirleen McSpadden.

■ Agreed that we will reinstitute “Santa on Cole Street” this year to give residents an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa Claus, well-impersonated by board member Chuck Canepa. Discussed time-table for publicity, mailers, posters, distribution, etc.

■ Legislative aide Calvin Ho (Supervisor Mandelman’s office) spoke in response to our need for panel replacement of the wind screens at the Cole-Carl Muni stop, reported that graffiti-resistant glass sheets are in the works and will be installed soon.

Adjourned at 9 pm.

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

Cole Valley Makes the Chronicle —Above the Fold

In his wry letter to a Department of Public Works inspector, writer Robert M. Smith skewers the neighbor who reported a bookcase standing against Cole Valley Pets as “obstructing the public right-of-way.” That it was a small “free library” didn’t soften her heart. Rules are rules. Below are some excerpts, but you are encouraged to read the original article (SF Chronicle, October 4, 2023. Reprinted without permission but with sincere appreciation.)



“Dear Public Works Inspector No. 078:

I write to congratulate you on a job well done in shutting down a menace on San Francisco’s streets. It is not everyone who would have acted as decisively as you did in clearing a sidewalk in Cole Valley of a small bookcase propped against a building that the neighborhood used as a community library.

“This must have stood out in a city where more minor problems range from homelessness, drugs, sky-high rents and housing prices, punishing inflation, potholes that magically resist repair, the safety of pedestrians, street closures in the park and proposals for high-rises in districts that now have decades-old single-family homes. It took keen judgment on the part of Public Works to step in firmly and shut down this threat to community safety.

“This law enforcement assault began on Aug. 29, when Diana at 311—the city’s central service line—got an anonymous call. The complainant reported: *“Blocked Street Sidewalk-Display Merchandise. Right of way is blocked. Uphold Police Code: Article 1. Section 63.”* (Whimsy compels me to use italics. Diana actually wrote it with a straight face.)

“She then quoted the code: “It shall be unlawful ... for any person ... to place ... any article or substance which shall obstruct the passage of (the) sidewalk.”

“I do have one niggling question, dear inspector. I may have this wrong, but doesn’t the Police Code (in Section 22, for example) also say that the sidewalk law does not apply where its application would result in an interference with ... any exercise of freedom of speech?

“Some of the books in the banned bookcase were in French. That’s because some of the residents of Cole Valley speak French. Gosh, could jingoism have caused the complaint? Or a misreading of French for Arabic?

“But the bookcase may actually have been lucky. Because it has no wheels, it escaped the fate that a San Francisco hot dog vendor’s cart suffered just Monday at the hands of another DPW employee. Inspector No. 078 did not give hot pursuit and topple the bookcase. The inspector’s colleague Monday chased after a vendor and threw his cart to the ground, spilling hot dogs, buns and condiments, seen on a social media video.

“Public Works apparently has its priorities: books first, hot dogs next. So let’s give Public Works its due. Those who govern us are right in tune with the times. I’m not talking about corruption or even hot dogs. I mean books. The American Library Association reported there was a record-breaking number of attempts to ban books last year. In all fairness, why should Cole Valley be immune?”

Robert M. Smith is a San Francisco resident and author of “Suppressed: Confessions of a Former New York Times Washington Correspondent.”

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, type-written, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com



Visit our website at CVIASF.org

SAVE THE AGGRAVATION

Shop for Holiday Gifts
in Cole Valley and the
Haight. (If you can’t find it
here, they don’t need it.)



So Long, It's Been Good To Know You

Psychologists tell us that people tend to put a higher value on things they once had, but are then taken away—even if they didn't particularly like them in the first place.



The slow dismantling of Skystar caused nostalgia for some, but not all.

Such is the case of the Skystar Wheel that was erected three years ago in Golden Gate Park's music concourse to celebrate the 150th anniversary of it's opening. Park mavens objected because of light pollution, bird disruption, private enterprise and defying the original mandate of creating a sylvan haven within our tightly-packed urban environment. But others objected to its use of 1000 gallons of diesel fuel a week to run its generator. Well, it's all moot now as it has been carefully dismantled over the last few weeks and will reopen on November 10 at Fisherman's Wharf, in time for the Asia Pacific Economic Conference.

—Karen Crommie

Postscripts



demonstrating art-making in its busking definition. The only hitch is they want you to submit an application for a permit costing \$76 a year. No amplified sound, thank you very much.

As hundreds crowded **Belvedere Street** on Halloween, neighbors thought back to the first year they dragged garbage cans to block off the street so their children would have a safe place to trick or treat. With parents from all over the city seeking the same thing, it may have gotten out of hand.

Chronicle metro writer for many years, **Heather Knight** this year accepted a job with the New York Times covering the West Coast beat. Knowing the city as she does, she recently wrote an article asking for balance in appraising its current downturn. Check out NYT 9-23-23, "Are You OK?" (Thanks to *Bill O'Such*)



Due to the persistence of CVIA President **Carole Glosenger**, MTA installed new windscreens at Cole and Carl before the Cole Valley Fair.



Third-hand news: **Jessica Justino** heard that the painters told a nearby resident, those orange lines on the flats at



the corner of Ashbury and Frederick are supposed to evoke thoughts of the Golden gate bridge. Hey, I see it, do you?

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Officers

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

Remember, you're nobody until somebody hates you.

—Tom Wolfe

Senator Dianne Feinstein June 22, 1933 – Sept 29, 2023

Senator Feinstein was born Dianne Emiel Goldman on June 22, 1933 in San Francisco to Leon Goldman, a prominent surgeon, and his wife, Betty (née Rosenberg), a former model.



She graduated from Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in 1951 and from Stanford University in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts in history.

Feinstein was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1969. She remained on the board for nine years, serving as its first female president from 1970 to 1971, with additional tenures from 1974 to 1975 and January to December 1978.

When Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated by former supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978, Feinstein became acting mayor, as she was president of the Board of Supervisors.

After losing a race for governor in 1990, Feinstein was elected to the U.S. Senate in a special election in 1992. She was reelected five times. On November 5, 2022, Feinstein became the longest-serving female senator in U.S. history

She was a passionate advocate for liberal priorities important to her state—including environmental protection, reproductive rights and gun control—but was also known as a pragmatic lawmaker who reached out to Republicans and sought middle ground

Feinstein died on September 29 of this year. The following day, her Senate desk was draped in black and topped with a vase of white roses. Senators gave tearful tributes as members of the California House delegation stood in the back of the chamber and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sat in the gallery with Feinstein’s daughter, Katherine.

On Wednesday, October 4, the Senator lay in state at San Francisco City Hall from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. A long line of San Franciscans paid their respects and signed a condolence book.

On the following day a private funeral service was held that was livestreamed to the public later in the week.

Help

- Emergency (crimes in progress)911
- Homeless Outreach Team628-652-8000
- Disturbance (415) 553-0123
- Blocked Driveways..... (415) 553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles (415) 781-5865
- Health Department (415) 255-3610
- Litter (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
- NextBus311
- 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
SFPD
1245 Third Street
S.F., CA 94158
- District Attorney Brooke Jenkins (628) 652-4000
350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Jack Hart..... (415) 242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
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CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2024 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
Production.....David Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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 \$ _____ or the community work of CVIA \$ _____

Do NOT acknowledge my optional 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

