

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2015

UCSF Superbowl Day Transfer

They did it. UCSF managed to move 120 patients from its medical center on Parnassus to its new hospital complex in Mis-



Hospital staff had rehearsed the challenging move for months before.

sion Bay. The cortège began at 7 a.m. on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, as forty ambulances lined up to transport the patients across town. The new \$1.5 billion medical center is made up of three hospitals: one for children, another for women and a third for cancer patients.

Salesforce.com founder Marc Benioff and his wife Lynne donated \$100 million for the children’s hospital backed up by donations from other tech firms. It’s a state-of-the art facility with intensive care, a helipad for critical emergencies, homey rooms for children, a classroom where they can continue their schooling while in treatment, and space for loved ones to stay.

The Woman’s hospital has a labor and delivery room, intensive care unit, acute patient room, as well as outpatient clinic. The Bakar Cancer Hospital has all the same amenities plus operating rooms with advanced technology including infection control and ceiling-mounted equipment booms that keep surgical equipment off the floor.

The outpatient portion of the sprawling hospital facility has been christened the UCSF Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building, named after Conway, his wife Gayle, and sons Ronny, Topher and Danny, in recognition of their \$40 million gift to help support ambulatory care at the facility.

Our Own District 5 Supervisor Becomes Board President

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors elected first term Supervisor London Breed to its presidency on January 8, making her the second Black woman after Doris Ward in 1990 to hold the seat. The board president is second only to the mayor as the most powerful person in San Francisco.

Once Supervisors Katy Tang and Mark Farrell were out of the running, it was clear that she was the only person who could possibly get six votes. Supervisor David Campos got three votes (himself, Su-



As president, Supervisor Breed assigns committee positions and becomes the voice of the board.

pervisors Avalos, and Kim). The rest went to Breed—including that of Supervisor Eric Mar, who generally votes with the “progressives.”

Marisa Lagos reporter for the SF Chronicle wrote, “While she is often viewed as a member of the board’s more moderate bloc, Breed has made a name for herself as a blunt, self-assured politician who isn’t afraid to buck political allies, such as when she took on Mayor Ed Lee over the dismal ambulance response times last year and her consistent support of a city-run clean power program that’s opposed by many of the city’s most influential business interests. Her election cements the rise of the board’s moderate wing and hands the Mayor a more reliably friendly legislative body.”

Residents Demand Hearing on Sunset Tunnel Nightwork

Night work on the Sunset tunnel is being divided between the east and west (Carl St.) portals to make it less disruptive for each neighborhood. But the folks on the Duboce side of the tunnel have filed an appeal of the contractor’s all-night noise permit for the track improvement project. Fifty-one people signed a petition asking SFMTA to do something to stop the “unacceptable noise” caused by work on the tracks. The roar resulting from hauling gravel in and out of the tunnel all night, dragging rails, combined with the constant

INSIDE

Board Minutes.....8	Neighborhood Eating.....7
Booksmith Events.....9	Park Library.....5
Buena Vista Park Plans.....4	Park Police Meeting.....5
Carl Street Free Library.....3	Police Advisory Board.....6
Chariot Shuttle.....3	Postscripts.....10
City Government Contacts.....11	Residential Parking.....5
Cole Street Crash.....5	Ritual Coffee Coming.....6
Corporate Busses.....3	Thanks to 2013 Supporters.....2
Customs of Gentle Folk.....4	Urban School Gets Okay.....7



sound of beeping trucks backing up was causing not only lack of sleep, but genuine anguish. Some suggested that Muni pay for hotel rooms for the residents most impacted by the work. But they said that was against policy.

But, hold on. Haven't we been waiting for these track improvements for a decade? Already we have seen the improvement



Crowds gathered along the top of the Sunset Tunnel on opening day, October 21, 1928. Pictured is Mayor Rolph driving the streetcar on its maiden trip through the western portal en route to Ocean Beach.

since the new tracks went in on Carl Street. No longer do passing N-Judah trains screech by while windows rattle. We want the tunnel project completed and need to come to terms with the most realistic mitigation the contractors are willing to make, such as using hand signaling for backing trucks.

Because of the appeal of the project's Night Noise Permit, the weekend shutdowns for the project are currently on hold. There will be a Board of Appeals hearing to review the permit on February 25th, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Pending the outcome of the hearing, weekend work may resume on the weekend of March 7-8, with subsequent weekend shutdowns on 3/21-22, 3/28, 4/4 and 4/11. These dates are tentative and may change depending on how the schedule has to be adjusted to make up for lost time. Weekend night work begins at approximately 8 p.m. on Fridays and continues until 5 a.m. on Mondays. The Trackway Improvement Project began last November and will continue until June.

For concerns or assistance, please contact: Tess Kavanagh, Project Manager, at (415) 701-4212, or via email at tess.kavanagh@sfmta.com.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor?

Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eleven Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the Santa on Cole photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period January 1, 2014 to February 1, 2015. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): *Brittney Bottorff & Asim Bhansali, Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey, Les Silverman & Irv Govan*

Donors (\$100 - \$249): *Anonymous, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Sheila & P.J. Brooker, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Karen & David Crommie, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Diane & Christopher Davies, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Janan New, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Rosemary Southwood, Jill Wolcott & Mitchell J. Olejko*

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): *Joan Boyd, Gina Centoni, Linda Erkelens & Ronald Dion, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Dag & Todd Frederick, Ryan Floyd, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Molly & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Colleen Kavanagh, Wallis & Michelle Lim, John R. Manning, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Kendra & William Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Sigrid Schafmann, Michael J. Sullivan, Eileen & Kevin Thau, Mary Ann Wolcott*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): *Gail & Howard Berman, Kathleen Bertram, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan Boyd, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Chris Broderick, Karin de Brer, Sarah & Alexander Crockett, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Beverley Epstein, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, John Fricke & Lindsey Criswell, Gloria Galindo, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carole Glosenger, Gerardo Joffe, David Keller, Dennis Martino, Jane & Michael Miller, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Barbara Mow, Tom Nicoll, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Ellen Rashbaum, MeMe Rioridan, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Deborah Van Atta, William Villaroel, Victoria Zaroff*

Boosters (\$24 and below): *Kay Auciello, Rob Bakewell, Judith Bishop, Tina & Oliver Brock, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, Beverley Epstein, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Minette Gutfreund, Janet & Mark Hall, Beth & Beau Harrington, Maryann Hrichak, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Laraine Stein, Suene & Eric Waldman*

Corporate Busses R Us

Research in 2014 found that the “shuttle effect” around Google bus stops increased rents by 20 percent. That’s an upside for building owners—not for renters. But the benefit shared by all is the reduction of private car use, lessening road congestion and making more street parking available.

On the minus side there is less access to Muni buses at the “Google” stops and some neighbors in Cole Valley have reported buses idling on the side streets for 10-15 minutes—probably waiting



Corporate shuttles prove to be a mixed blessing.

for their scheduled pick-up time. Idling of any vehicle for longer than 5 minutes is against California State law.

SFMTA has approved the following stops in Muni zones for corporate shuttles in Cole Valley:

- Frederick at Ashbury on the NW corner.
- Stanyan at Waller on the NW corner.
- Parnassus at Stanyan on the NW corner.
- Parnassus at Stanyan on the SW corner.

If you see buses idling or using a non-approved bus stop, call 311 and submit a report (easiest way) or submit the complaint online (Enter “Commuter Shuttles Policy and Pilot Program” in your search engine for a feedback form.)

—Joan Downey

More Competition for Muni on Carl Street

In the meantime, a CVIA member has asked us if a sign he’s seen at Carl & Cole advertising a taxi service called Chariot is allowed to pick up customers in the bus zone.



A check with Carli Paine, manager of the SFMTA’s Sustainable Streets Division confirmed that Chariot is not a commuter shuttle and so is not eligible for permitting through the Commuter Shuttle Pilot program. She believes the City Attorney’s office is currently evaluating what regulations apply to them.

—Joan Downey

The Carl Street Free Library

In the Fall of 2013, I was doing some spring cleaning and found I had a closet full of old books that I knew I was never going to read again and wasn’t quite sure how to best find them a new home. On a break from my domestic duty, I decided to take my dog for a walk around the block. We hadn’t gotten far on Carl Street, before I found a nice orange, plastic book case. Knowing what I had to do, I cut the dog’s walk short, carried it home, set it in front of my house and filled it with books. An hour later it was half empty. I brought some more books downstairs. The next morning, many of my books were gone, but there were books on the shelf I had never seen before, lots of them. This was the birth of the Carl Street Free Library. No Fees. No Dues. No Card Required.

I had heard about people who made lending libraries like ornate bird houses. The Carl Street Free Library is not one of these. There is nothing ornate about it. The original orange bookcase



only lasted a couple of weeks before someone stole it. No problem, I found another one in a day or two and the library reopened. We have had six or seven different shelves, all found in the neighborhood. The current library, recently found across the street from Grattan School, is 6 feet high, 12 inches wide and yellow, secured with a Kryptonite bike lock. Other than losing a few shelves to theft and some odd graffiti, that I quickly remove, the library is a trouble-free addition to the front of my house.

I haven’t personally put any books on the shelf since the beginning, that is all handled by the neighborhood volunteer librarians. It is the generosity of the residents that

keep the library open. Most books come and go, very few come back. From time to time we get books on tape or compact discs. This spring I noticed a copy of The Steve Jobs biography on CD. I thought I should get that for myself, but I was too late, it was gone. The next day it was back, I grabbed it. Unfortunately the first disc in the set was missing, I figured I would listen to it anyway, but when I put it in my player, it was in German. When I put it back on the shelf, disc number one had been returned. The set went back and forth a few times. I assume other people had the same experience I did. But, eventually, even the six CD set of the Steve Jobs book in German found a home.

It is always a pleasure to talk with people as they browse the books, I often ask them if they are finding anything good. One day, a young man who appeared to be living outdoors, was spending a long time at the case. I realized he was rearranging the books. When I asked him if he had found any treasures, his eyes got wide and he gleefully told me that the week before he had found two first edition, signed books in the library—a Ken Kesey and a Hunter S. Thompson. Wow. I asked if he was a collector, sadly he said no, but that he had sold the books. I am happy he was able to profit from them. He has become a regular and does a wonderful job sorting the books into creative displays. It is not my library I am just the librarian. It has truly taken on a life of its own.

—Jay Streets

Plans for Buena Vista Park

There's an exciting start to the new year in our quest to address the serious problems of Buena Vista Park: Rec and Park is hosting a series of capital planning meetings with the goal of creating a big picture of what is needed in terms of capital improvements (i.e. structures, paths, forest, irrigation). In addition, the process will identify some specific smaller projects (i.e., \$500k or less) that might be undertaken immediately. The landscape architect for our project, Lizzy Hirsch, is excellent and did the design and planning for Lafayette Park, which is beautiful.

The first meeting took place on February 10. There will be two more. Rec and Park mailed notices to property owners about this first meeting, but the additional meetings will be noticed only to those who signed up (either at the first meeting or on RPD website) or who happen to see other notification through the internet "grape vine" or who sign up on the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association website, Info@bvna.sf.com.

—Isabel Wade
Friends of Buena Vista Park

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



The venerable 1909 building is the neighborhood's jewel.

it was constructed during the decades when other city libraries were being built with funding from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, 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 neo-classical edifice has a set-back of 30 feet to comply with the properties around it at the time, sadly, now mostly 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.

—Karen Crommie

Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

It's Spring: Get Out and Garden with Neighbors

Hovering over Cole Valley are tree-line blocks such as Edgewood, Belmont and Willard where flowering plum trees are laden with sprays of blossoms. While up on Tank Hill, the ground is sprinkled with yellow biscuit root and buttercups. Ah, Spring. The warm weather has a way of drawing us outside.

As much as your own garden may need work, it's way more fun to garden in a public space with your neighbors.

Kind of like playing golf without the clubs and in the end, you have something to show for it.

For that reason, we want to point out some opportunities to get some exercise, meet new people and, at the same time, improve our "commons."

March 7th. Participate in the ongoing restoration of San Francisco's uniquely beautiful **Sutro Forest**. It's actual wilderness on the edge of our neighborhood. The volunteer work party meets at 9 a.m. at 100 Medical Center Way and divides up into teams: Some will work in the native plant nursery, some will tackle the trail work, while others will weed and do planting. Work ends at 12:30 p.m. followed by pizza and refreshments. Parking is free at the Woods Parking Lot during the program. The Mt. Sutro Stewards provide tools and instruction. Organizer is Joanne Wu. For map, go to <http://goo.gl/maps/tBrp6>

March 7th. If Mountain work is not your cup of tea, the small park at the edge of Golden Gate Park, in the shadow of UCSF, called **Kezar Triangle** is having a work party the same morning. Two years ago it was revitalized to promote a holistic approach to utilizing open space, combining art, ecology, and community engagement in what was once a neglected meadow crisscrossed by walking paths. A wide range of gardening tasks are available. Light refreshments provided. Please wear closed toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine 9:00 a.m. to noon. Second Avenue, between Lincoln Way and Kezar Drive. Please RSVP to recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org.

March 14th. If you live closer to the **Panhandle**, there is a regular work party every second Saturday that you are welcome to join. The North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association needs your help to beautify and maintain the basketball court and landscaping around the children's playground. Please wear closed toed shoes, long pants and layers. Light refreshments provided. Meet at the community billboard near the bathrooms at Oak and Ashbury.

March 28th. There is a volunteer gardening group at **Alvord Lake** every fourth Saturday meeting at the entrance to Golden Gate Park where Haight ends at Stanyan. (Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to find work party). The volunteers, organized by Susan Strolis, perform a variety of tasks: weeding, pruning, raking, sweeping and planting. All work is supervised by a Rec and Park gardener. With it comes the opportunity to experience first-hand, the challenges of maintaining a well-used public park. Wear layers and if you have your own gloves and kneepads, please bring those as well. Additional gloves and tools will be available. If you would like to commit, please email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org to register so staff can plan projects and tools accordingly.

—Karen Crommie



Cole Street Car Crash

There is nothing like a citizen reporter. Cole Valley resident Jeff Gubitosi posted the following on the site *Cole Valley, a Not-So-Secret SF Neighborhood* on January 29.

“So, the loud bang was a car barreling into a parked truck in front of The Ice Cream Bar. They think it was two guys. One climbed up scaffolding on one of the houses on the east side of Cole and broke a window. One of the residents was cut up pretty badly trying to stop him. There were probably five cop cars within a minute but almost 15 to get an ambulance. What’s going on in our hood? Ellen Fitch Curry added, “I heard the neighbor who was



Neighbor Jeff Gubitosi captured this shot in front of The Ice Cream Bar.

cut spent the night in the hospital, but is expected to make a full recovery. Sounds like it was a very serious cut (possibly an artery) and it took a LONG time for an ambulance.

Focus on Traffic Safety at Park Police Monthly Meeting

At this month’s Police Community Meeting, Captain Raj Vaswani introduced Sergeant William Murphy of the Traffic Division to speak about safety on the streets of Park District. In 2014 there were 14 pedestrian fatalities, down from 21 in 2013. Education, Murphy said, is the reason for the decrease. He spends a great deal of his time educating both children and the elderly on pedestrian safety.

A grant from the California State Office of Traffic Safety provided funds to the Department of Public Works to study the most dangerous intersections in the different police districts. Park District’s five most dangerous are:

1. Geary and Divisadero (Red Light Running)
2. Grove and Divisadero (Pedestrian Right-of-Way)
3. Fulton and Masonic (Speeding)
4. Fulton and Scott (Stop Sign)
5. Fell and Masoni (Bicycle Collisions)

Murphy urged drivers to obey crosswalk rules, saying that when a pedestrian puts their big toe into a crosswalk, “they own it.”

Asked why there wasn’t more enforcement of traffic violations, Murphy resorted to that age-old police department excuse: “Our resources are limited.”

—David Crommie

Save the Date:

Erica Kajdasz, the tireless organizer of the Cole Valley Fair (for sponsor Midline Studio) has announced this year’s date as September 27. Booth applications will be on line at www.midlinestudio.com in the next few weeks.

Residential Parking May Stop Westward Creep at Divisadero

The current quest to establish a new Residential Parking Permit area parking by residents of the Western Addition has expanded over the last months from 20 square blocks to approximately 60. Driven by fear of being inundated with non-resident all-day parking, bordering blocks have, one after another, gathered the requisite signatures to make sure they were not left out the proposed Area Q. So much so that the Haight has become one of those border neighborhoods because Q has now crept right up Masonic Avenue.



Once a new Area is approved, any vehicle displaying a valid Residential Parking Permit (RPP) is permitted to park in that designated area irrespective of the posted time—typically two hours maximum—by paying an annual fee of \$110 for a sticker. All other parking regulations apply.

A proposed Area “Q” Residential Parking jurisdiction (not “U,” as shown) would bring permitted parking up to the edge of the Haight Ashbury.

The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, which had been working to remove area Q from going into the Haight, got a boost at a recent hearing when four African American clergymen argued that the parking rules would drive the congregations of several Western Addition churches out of the city.

The campaign for permit parking was initiated by the neighborhood organizations of the North of Panhandle and the Alamo Square after losing 100 parking spaces in the creation of a bike path. The former has complied with HANC’s request to end the western boundary of area Q at Divisadero Street, while Alamo Square is holding fast.

—Karen Crommie

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2014 Merchant Participants

Alpha Market	Bambinos
Boulange de Cole	BurgerMeister
Cole Cleaners	Cole Hardware
Crêpes on Cole	MadKat
Padrecito	Postal Chase

Tantrum

Community Police Advisory Board Report

The main focus of the last meeting was the proposed redistricting of the police Stations. This is done periodically to reflect population changes as they occur. For Park District Station, the proposed changes are minimal, taking part of the Divisadero corridor out from Park jurisdiction and moving it to Northern District and reassigning the Duboce Triangle area to Mission District. You can get details of all the proposed changes at www.sfgov.org/police. There will also be community meetings that you can attend to offer input. While some have already occurred more are scheduled until March 4th. The 90 day public comment period ends on March 10, 2015.

Captain Vaswani reported that New Years Eve was relatively peaceful in our area with three arrests and no crowd issues.

The Captain also explained the approach they are taking with the homeless youth issue on Haight Street. When they see newly arrived youth they try to intervene early to offer assistance, a phone call and, sometimes, a ticket home before the youth becomes exploited and a permanent part of the population.

There have been several successful drug busts recently and they will continue.

Theft from garages is still a problem and better security locks on tradesmen entrances is one suggestion. Since bikes are often the target, bike registration is strongly recommended (Safebikes.org) and guarantees a much better chance of recovery of your bicycle. Also, do not leave garage door openers in your car when parked in the street. One solution is to get the key ring version that you can carry with you.

Investigation continues on the tragic shooting in the Western Addition, probably a gang related incident, but nevertheless very sad.

—Lena Emmerly

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM



Captain Raj Vaswani holds community forums the second Tuesday 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 a good way to stay in touch with what's going on. The meetings are held

at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller).

March 10, April 14, May 12
Mark Your Calendars

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

New Coffee Company to Open on Haight

Owners of the building housing Lucky cleaners on the 1300 block of Haight (think the Chinese Immersion School) have plans to replace it with a Ritual Coffee Roaster. Ritual originally opened on Valencia Street in 2005 and is owned by Eileen Hassi-Renaldi who, more recently, also established small spots in Hayes Valley (Proxy), in that magical garden shop Flora Grubb Gardens in the Bayview and in Napa's Oxbow Market.

Ritual Coffee Roasters is a sophisticated marketer. Among other things it instagrams whimsical messages such as this, last



The former Lucky Cleaners at 1300 Haight Street may soon become Ritual Coffee Roasters' fourth San Francisco location.

week, "In this season, when the sun lacks any strength to thaw, we think strong coffee is a necessity. Wolf Moon, our newest seasonal espresso, pairs three fresh, pull-no-punches offerings from Brazil, Colombia, and Rwanda to help you persevere through even the darkest, coldest winter days."

They also have a newsletter, events, a coffee club (mail order) and special offers. They have personal relationships with their producers in Africa and South America and, all in all, seem like serious people who should make a good fit for the Haight. The 1300 block is one of few that doesn't have a coffee house. But, that said, they will need more than good marketing to persuade customers to bridge that huge psychological dividing line, Masonic Avenue.

—Karen Crommie

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



Nobody Asked Us, But. . .

CVIA board meetings are not always pure business. Before and after the meeting we quite naturally exchange information about our lives and, inevitably, the conversation turns to food at neighborhood restaurants. At the last meeting, it was suggested we share our favorites with other CVIA members. The results are below.

Chris Hock said, “My guilty pleasure is bellying up to the bar and having a Rueben with a side of fries and a cold Heffewissen at the Kezar Bar & Restaurant. It’s a great treat catching up with the



The CVIA Board meets at the home of a member every first Monday night. Standing is Evan Wynns of the SF Energy Coop.

regulars at the bar while a Giants game is on in the background.

Amy Blakeley loves the Tofu Karprow at Bangkok 900 (900 Stanyan at Frederick). The tofu is perfectly crispy and the basil and peppers combine to just the right amount of sweet and heat. The upstairs balcony seating reminds me of Colonial times—it’s such an unusual interior architecture for the neighborhood.

Joan Downey loves the tomato soup at the Ice Cream Bar. “Every day there are two soup choices—and while I like most of them, my fave is the tomato. It comes with two pieces of the most delicious toasted house-baked brioche. And I’m normally so full, I don’t have my other favorite there: the Morello cherry ice cream on a waffle cone.

“I also think Reverie Café’s Mujadara is wonderful. It’s a lentil, rice, and onion Lebanese dish topped with fresh salad vegetables and a wonderful sauce. When it arrives on the table I’m always sure that I can’t eat it all—but I always do.”

Carole Glosenger wrote, “My guilty pleasure is a bacon burger with cheese and fries at BurgerMeister. Sometimes we order to take home if we feel like a hamburger but don’t want to eat out. The cold slaw is very good as well.

My second favorite is the pizzette at Ino Vino but I don’t feel guilty about this at all. The pizzette is thin crust and the “Finocchiona” with salami, olives, sweet onion & chilies and the “San Danielle” with Parmigianino, arugula, and prosciutto are exceptionally scrumptious. Add a bottle of 2009 Barolo and you have dinner.”

Doug Hall likes the chicken crêpes at Crêpes on Cole. Pieces of white meat chicken with white cheese and a flavoring of basil pesto makes a lovely dinner with the grilled red potatoes and green salad included.

Doug added, “The house margarita at Padrecito’s reminds me of those at the big hotel in Guatemala City, which was the best margarita on an archeological trip to Guatemala and Honduras last February. I was having one every evening at the multiple locations

we visited. A little mescal blended in gives the drink a slightly smoky flavor which puts it over the top.”

Marianne Hesse loves the butterscotch ice cream at the Ice Cream Bar, “Can’t find it anywhere else.”

Lena Emmery really likes the French toast at La Boulange, while husband Chuck Canepa is a sucker for the Nutella crêpes with ice cream at Crêpes on Cole.

Karen Crommie always orders the roasted chicken salad with grilled romaine and green goddess dressing at Sparrow Bar & Kitchen on Haight Street, accompanied by a glass of draft pale ale.

David Crommie’s favorite lunch is the “Kezar” sandwich made up of sliced chicken breast with melted cheese, lemon aioli, caramelized onions and peppers, on a Dutch crunch roll. It’s only available at the Haight Street Market’s deli. You can take it home or sit outside in their parklet.

Shannon Cooper-Hock says that when she’s just too tired to cook, “one of my favorite weeknight meals is from Bambino—the penne all’ Amatriciana, the fettuccine carbonara and a Greek salad. We get one of each to go, open up a bottle of wine, find a movie on Netflix and sit on the couch for a perfect dinner.

Urban School Expansion Ready to Roll

On February 5, 2015, the SF Planning Commission unanimously approved the Urban School’s Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for their North Campus Expansion project. Phase 1 includes the Academic and Athletics Center, which is planned to break ground in late April, and the later Phase 2 project, which converts the existing St. Agnes Gym to a Performing Arts facility, including a 300+



Head of School Mark Salkind held several community meetings updating the neighborhood on Urban School’s expansion plans.

seat theater. Also approved was Urban’s request for an increase in maximum student enrollment.

In Spring 2013, The Urban School and St. Agnes Church signed a 95-year lease for parish-owned property along Oak Street. Urban proposes to build a new academic and athletic facility over the surface parking lots on Oak Street and, in a second phase of the project, renovate the existing middle school gym/theater—also part of the long-term lease—into a space for its drama and music programs.

The Oak Street Project academic and athletic building will include additional classrooms and office space, a full-sized gymnasium and lockers rooms, seating for the entire student body, as well as underground parking. The addition of much needed academic space will allow Urban to increase the current maximum enrollment from 380 to 420 students over a four-year period following completion of the project, which is anticipated to be in 2016. For more information write to oakstreetproject@urbanschool.org.

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 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 431-1414 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, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

January

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger January 5, 2015

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,085.37 in savings, \$5,660.22 in checking for a total of \$17,746.59, out of which \$5,356.28 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. The net profit from Santa on Cole was \$1,700. HAMA did not cash the \$200 we contributed for holiday lighting in 2013. Due to an oversight, CVIA's usual Christmas gift to the Clean Cole workers has not yet been given. Joan will do it next week.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar Advisory Committee, of which she is chair, has suspended meetings until the completion of the new track. Joan Downey said that the work lights are left on all night and are flooding the windows of nearby residents. Lena to find out why this is needed.

■ CVIA's delegate to the CSFN Karen Crommie said that the December meeting was replaced by the annual holiday party at Patio Español at which Jim Stearns and Art Agnos spoke.

■ Reporting on the December Police Community Meeting, David Crommie said that there are three more officers assigned to Park Station and that Captain Vaswani is interested in making Park a training station for new officers and getting more of his patrol staff "out of their cars" and on to the street.

Captain Vaswani has been receiving more calls about bad actors in Buena Vista Park. David Burke, who replaced Richard Magary as head of the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, has been the principal watchdog for that area.

The Captain also related a sad story (and object lesson) involving a shooting near Duboce Park, on Henry Street, wherein after a street robbery, the victim chided the retreating robber, asking him if his gun was real. The robber responded by shooting him dead. The DPH has assigned a doctor to do outreach to the increasing number of mentally ill people frequenting that area.

■ Chuck Canepa, member of the UCSF Long Range Development citizens advisory committee, reported on the complicated process of moving current patients now at UCSF and Mt. Zion, across town to the new Mission Bay Hospital. This will be done on February 1 during the Super Bowl when traffic will be minimal. Over 900 people have signed up to tour the new Mission Bay facilities. (See article on page 1.)

In order to stabilize UC Hall during its upcoming conversion to housing, a sheath will be placed over the building until its completion (2017) for the protection of pedestrians. (see article on page 4)

The UCSF Laurel Heights Campus has finally found a taker: SKS Partners and Prado Group have signed a 99 year ground lease to develop the property. UCSF will rent their current space back from them until the plans and permits are acquired up to a maximum of five years.

■ Motion approved unanimously that the raffle held last year at the

Summer Social would be better placed during the day of the Cole Valley Fair. Wide outreach will be done not just to CVIA members but the whole neighborhood. As last year, merchant gifts will be widely publicized with prominence given to larger prizes. As an incentive to new members to join at the fair, one free raffle ticket will be given with a \$25 membership (a value of \$5). The beneficiary of the raffle (paying for the daily cleaning of Cole Street) must appear on all tickets.

■ Regarding a proposed mural on the wall (of Doug's Suds) facing passengers disembarking from the west-bound N Judah, CVIA President Carole Glosenger submitted a hand-colored copy of the historic photo of the Lang dairy farm, which once inhabited the now intersection of Cole and Carl streets. All agreed it's reproduction on the side of the building would be a welcoming greeting. It would be identified and accompanied with a period-appropriate banner reading, "Welcome to Cole Valley." Carole will scan the tinted photo and place it on a picture of the building and Joan will send it to the owner along with our proposal.

■ At the request of Marianne Hesse, agreed to invite Waller Center manager Ken Schoon to the February meeting to update us on their activities and long range plans for the former Methodist church.

■ Motion approved that we will not order any new t-shirts for the 2015 Cole Street Fair and that we will simply sell out the remaining stock.

■ Discussed the fundraising campaign of Mary Howe, Executive Director of the Homeless Youth Alliance, who, displaced from her spot in the at the corner of Haight and Cole, is looking for a permanent venue. The campaign is called "Go Big or Go Homeless" and has the goal of raising \$5 million to buy a building in the Haight Ashbury large enough to provide toilets, showers, counseling rooms, laundry, full service kitchen, medical care, meeting rooms and hangout spaces.

■ Motion approved that we will not solicit advertising in the CVIA newsletter nor feature stories about people offering services that are not connected to brick and mortar establishments.

■ Chose photo for use in next year's Santa on Cole publicity. Joan to ask parent for permission to use.

Adjournment 9:00

February

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse, February 2, 2015

Guests: Vallie Brown, Ken Schoon, Edward Walls, Virginia Joosen

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,095.05 in savings, \$5,894.50 in checking for a total of \$17,989.95, out of which \$3,401.41 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. She will ask CleanScapes if they can steam-clean the sidewalk in front of Lavande to demonstrate to the building owner the benefit of supporting Clean Cole.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the last meeting of the CPAB discussed shrinking the boundaries of Park Police District with the intent of consolidating the heavy service areas, now falling between jurisdictions, into the district of Northern Station (see article on page 6).

■ In her review of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Karen Crommie reported resolutions passed: The first urged the Board of Supervisors not to approve the housing element until the EIR has passed the legal challenge. The second was to support Senate Bill 47 establishing a moratorium on artificial turf until a study is completed on the health effects.

■ Vallie Brown, legislative aide to D-5 Supervisor London Breed, described a new homeless outreach program in the Haight: two shifts, five-days-a-week. It will include help in accessing services

and animal care. In addition, a mobile toilet facility is being planned for service on Haight Street following its successful trial period in the Tenderloin. The city's mobile shower facility, "Lava Mae," is also being discussed.

■ When asked about the ruling permitting any RH2 building to be used as a homeless shelter, Brown said that the law had always been on the books but ignored until the city's homeless director Bevan Dufty felt it could be implemented in his quest for additional shelter space.

■ Brown also said that applications by several neighborhood businesses for permits, such as The Ice Cream Bar, to construct parklets in front of their buildings have been delayed until the completion of the extensive street work involving pedestrian "bulb-outs" and transit stops.

■ When asked about the plans of the director of the recently ousted Homeless Youth Alliance to buy a building in the Haight to service indigent youth, Brown said that Dufty has been assisting in this effort, but with little success. Director Mary Howe is now operating her needle distribution service (financed by DPH) on foot. Her capital campaign has raised \$48,000 so far.

■ The Waller Center's site coordinator Kenneth Schoon spoke to the board about the ongoing activities at the former Hamilton United Methodist Church. They are currently providing residential lodging for groups of people coming to the city as part of "service teams" — typically volunteering at Glide Methodist church, the Food Bank or St. Anthony's Dining Room. Groups make their own meals in the fully equipped kitchen. Capacity is 30 with four showers available. Because the Church is selling off several properties in the city and is required to spend the profits within San Francisco, the Waller Center expects some of those funds will be allotted to the much needed refurbishment of the buildings.

■ The Board asked Schoon for a tour of the buildings open to members of CVIA sometime in April.

■ Their contract with City CarShare for space in the parking lot is being rewritten as the company does not qualify as a non-profit for this purpose and Waller Center is being asked to pay taxes on the lot Adjournment 9:00.

CVIA Executive Board: Amy Blakeley, Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock.

Customs of Gentle Folk



A few years ago, when the father of Chris Case died, a funeral bouquet graced the front gate of her and husband Howard's Carl Street home.

Recently there appeared two large pink bows acknowledging the birth of twin girls by their downstairs neighbors. How nice to share life's passages with passersby. Congratulations to the proud parents.

—Joan Downey

Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by email if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* email address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

Upcoming Booksmith Events

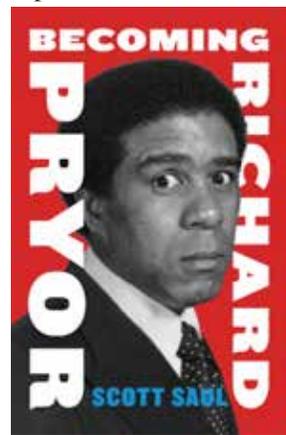
On Friday, February 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. bring a book about a secret to our **Bookswap**. Any secret will do, even one the author is keeping from you. Be prepared to talk about your book, and swap it for someone else's fave.

Joining us will be **Wendy C. Ortiz**, whose startling and exquisite memoir, "Excavation," is one of our favorites in recent history. In it, she tells the story of her five-year relationship with her teacher while she was a teenager at a private school in southern California. It's about writing, power, and finding your place in an adult world. It's also about secrets, and the power of shining light in dark places.



Bookswap is an exclusive private party inside a bookstore, and tickets do sell out. We close the store, open up the bar, serve dinner, and give our guests tons of swag and discounts. \$25 gets you all that and MORE. All you have to do is bring a book. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available on line at Booksmith.com.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. meet **Scott Saul**, author of "Becoming Richard Pryor." In this probing new biography, Saul captures the life of an iconic performer who set a new comedy



standard for his generation and all those who have come after. Beloved by audiences, Pryor has proven an elusive quarry for biographers; for all his openness about his life onstage, he was guarded offstage. Now "Becoming Richard Pryor" reveals the deeper story of what made Richard Pryor who he was.

Scott Saul is an associate professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. His writing has appeared in Harper's, The New York Times, and The Nation, among other publications. He is the author of

Freedom Is, Freedom Ain't: Jazz and the Making of the Sixties. He lives in Berkeley, California.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. join **BelleSF Magazine** for a **Nude Sketch Party** at the Booksmith. Though the name sounds saucy, it is actually an opportunity to sketch a nude model in the back of a bookstore. \$10 at the door. No pictures allowed. Bring your own supplies. BelleSf is an art/culture/nudie magazine based in SF. They cover the entire Bay area and beyond.



On Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Meet **Elisa Albert**, author of "After Birth" in Conversation with Ann Packer. "After Birth"



is a darkly funny and daringly honest novel about birth and motherhood. It's the story of Ari, a new mother, who finds herself profoundly changed and unexpectedly floundering. Until Mina—an older, self-sufficient, and pregnant musician—moves into town, and Ari finally finds someone who understands what she's going through. All events at 1644 Haight .

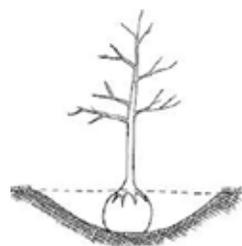
Postscripts

Congratulations to Second Act (1727 Haight) for completing its first year in business. Jack and Betsy Rix undertook major remodeling of the Red Vic Movie House in 2011 creating five stalls of small



food-related pop-ups. Since then, they've completed their events space, which is put to good use most weekends (go to secondactsf.com for events schedule), and completed the common seating area in the back corner, complete with a kitchenette and mini refreshment counter. Two of the original stalls, Spice Hound and High Cotton Kitchen have been replaced by Crêpe La Vi and Burma Bear. PPS, For those fans of Alembic, next door, the long wait for the expanded dining room will be over very, very soon.

1668 Haight Street has re-opened as Tikka Masala Pizza. Pizza and Indian food? How can they go wrong? It's the same owner as Savri, the previous restaurant at that location that had a short run. Presumably management wants to turn a page. The building had been closed for over a year after a fire in 2009.



Friends of the Urban Forest is planning a neighborhood-wide tree planting for the Haight and Cole Valley on May 9th. They say the event has full enrollment, but people drop out and if you have been wanting a tree in front of your house, go to the website at FUF.net and find out about cost and preparation involved. etc. FUF.net.

The proposed change in the boundaries of Park Police District will be good for Haight Ashbury. Giving Northern Station all the Western Addition public housing and the Divisadero Street corridor would free Park Station to focus more on the Haight and Cole Valley. Right now, the jurisdiction around Divisadero Street is divided, making it difficult for Northern Station to fully concentrate enforcement on that problematic area.

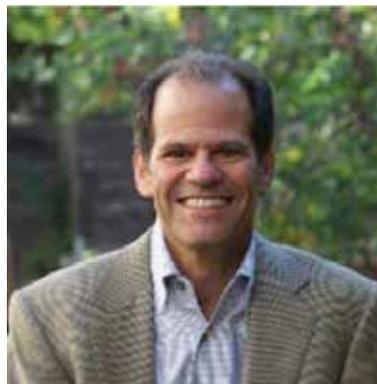
Be aware that 4/20 (national cannabis day) is coming up. Expect the Haight to be overrun by mellow mobs as they make their way to Sharon Meadow.

What a great neighborhood! You don't even have to leave it to get a Medical Cannabis card. Thanks to our friendly Amoeba Music, for only \$40 bucks you can get the appropriate "medical evaluation" by a real doctor to determine your need for pot.

We heard that Finnegan's Wake had been sold and cringed to think what might appear in place of this popular Cole Street bar. Fortunately, Joan Downey checked it out with owner Tom Frenkel, who put our fears to rest. Said Frenkel, "We bought Maud's (a Lesbian watering hole opened in 1966 and made famous by film 'Last Call at Maude's') from Rikki Stryker in 1989 and it's been a great bar. I'm still involved and my daughter will be running it. We needed a capital infusion to do a cosmetic remodel and fix a major plumbing issue, but I'm not going away. It's more of a corporate restructure involving a new group, of which we are part, than a total sale. We hope to keep the spirit and good will of Finnegan's going for a very long time."



The SF Business Times is fond of publishing lists. A recent one compared the salaries of CEOs of publicly traded San Francisco companies with that of non-profits. Needless to say, the latter came in lower—but not that much lower. The genial Mark Salkind, head of the prestigious Urban School on Page Street (soon to expand considerably), ranks fifth in a listing of top paid non-profit executives. But, not so fast. The CEO of the public company with the same ranking makes twice what he does. Even more interesting is that three of the highest paid



heads of non-profit companies in the city are private schools. With San Francisco Day School coming in on top, followed by Town School for Boys and Urban School fifth. FYI, the others on the list of top five earners were CEOs of Center for the Next Generation and Bridge Housing.

Dave McLean emailed to remind us that February is Strong Beer Month at Magnolia Pub (Haight and Masonic). "We kicked off our 13th annual collaborative celebration of big beers (all over 8.5% alcohol by volume, with the highest at 10.8%). What began so many years ago as a way to enliven an otherwise dull month seems to have worked. Today, we brew six special beers and, as long as supplies last, you can try all 12 and keep the commemorative tasting glass. Just ask for a punch card.



Even though we can't take visitors to Haight Street to see the Banksy Rat anymore since they sawed it off the side of the Red Victorian Hotel, we can direct them to the window of the 836M



Photo: Scott Strazante, The Chronicle

Gallery on Montgomery Street until July 11. In spite of my suspicion that cutting a stenciled rat off the side of a building is further evidence of decline in our culture, I have to admit, it's one of the mysterious British graffiti vandals's best work.

—Karen Crommie

Note that we try to keep CVIA's online Calendar of events up-to-date with happenings of interest to the neighborhood.

If you know of an event that we should post, please send an email to CVIASF@aol.com. Check out the calendar at <http://www.cviasf.org/calendar-of-upcoming-events/>

CVIA Officers

- President.....Carole Glosenger
- Vice PresidentAmy Blakeley
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

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 Fall edition should be sent before May 1, 2015 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
 ProductionDavid Crommie
 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

Help

- Emergency911**
- Disturbance553-0123**
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks ...553-1200**
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865**
- Health Department255-3610**
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311**
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311**
- NextBus311**
- Street Lighting.....554-0730**

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 S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police Greg Suhr553-1551
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

District Attorney George Gascón553-1741
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11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

Please clip and mail the coupon below to CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117



Yes! I'd like to become a CVIA member!

Here's my check for \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Renewal

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



**Cole Valley Improvement Association
P.O. Box 170611
San Francisco, CA 94117**