

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXX

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2017

## Booksmith to Ban Books

Yes, it seems incongruous that arguably the most liberal bookstore in San Francisco is drawing a line in the sand. The SF Examiner thought it was unusual enough to report it in a recent edition. Owner Christin Evans and the rest of the Booksmith team posted a letter explaining their decision to the community on their website. Below are excerpts—**please read the complete version at Booksmith.com/blog.**

*“We at Booksmith would like to take a moment to address the current controversy surrounding a certain memoir recently acquired by Simon & Schuster. [Milo Yiannopoulos’ “Dangerous”]”*

*“While we at Booksmith value free speech and democratizing information at our bookstores, we also believe that this author crosses a line by promoting hate speech and bullying and feel compelled to take action. We want to send a message; we also believe that our family of S&S writers should not be harmed by a boycott. So, over the past week, we’ve discussed with our staff and community the pros and cons of various responses at length, and we’re proud to announce our decision.*

*“Booksmith is committed to the following, effective immediately:*

*•We will not be stocking or special ordering “Dangerous” or anything else from Threshold Editions. No royalty revenue will come from Booksmith.*



Booksmith’s window display encourages action against hate speech.

*•Booksmith will reduce its orders with Threshold’s parent company Simon & Schuster by 50% in order to communicate pressure to the corporation as a whole. While we respect Simon’s decision to publish any book, we reserve the right to allocate our discretionary inventory dollars with publishers who act with ethical and moral standards consistent with our own.*

*•While we are not enacting a sweeping boycott of all S&S titles, for the foreseeable future, 40% of all S&S sales (which is to say all of our profit) will be turned right around and donated to the ACLU.”*

## Cole Valley Fair Commendation

Erica Kajdasz was recently presented with a commendation by Supervisor London Breed for her outstanding organization of the 14th Annual Cole Valley Fair.



Supervisor London Breed presents commendation to Erica Kajdasz.

When CVIA’s Joan Downey bowed out of that role in 2012, it could have signaled the demise of this event. But Erica, six months pregnant at the time, undertook the complicated process of securing permits, getting sponsors, reaching out to vendors, jurying crafts, planning a balance of non-stop entertainment, kids activities and, perhaps the most ticklish task, notifying residents of Fair Day tow-aways. After four successful years, City Hall noticed. Our congratulations to Erica and appreciation to Supervisor Breed for bring this honor to our neighborhood.

But Erica’s roots in Cole Valley go even deeper than organizing the Fair. She is co-owner, with husband Jason Kajdasz and

Mien Luong, in two popular fitness studios: Midline on Frederick and Lavation on Stanyan.

## New Cole Valley Book Club

Cole Valley resident Rheanna LaRoche is using the popular website NextDoor to organize a new book club for the neighborhood. The next gathering will be on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Crepes on Cole to discuss “The Truth and Other Lies” by Sascha Arango.

Says LaRoche, “We are taking turns selecting the books we read. Then, based on the length of the book, scheduling the next gathering. Very simple! All are welcome.”

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## Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eight Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district last year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a 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 February 2016 through January 2017. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**Beacons: (\$1000): Les Silverman and Irv Govan**

**Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): Karen & David Crommie, Hancock Foundation, Bill Mainzer, Craig Newmark, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey**

**Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Gina Centoni, Linda Coda, Catherine Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Linda Erklands, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Rita & Richard Felciano, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Janan New, Covey & Thomas Ports, Kerith & Tony Pucci, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Michael J. Sullivan, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Beth & Rick Thurber**

**Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Jamie & Ari Alexander, Kathleen Bertram, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Sarah & Alexander Crockett, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Douglas Hall, Carol & Richard Harris, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Ice Cream Bar, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Jim Laufenberg, Michelle & Wallace Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Kendra & Billy Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, William A. Villaroel**

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Judith Bishop, Vallie Brown, Donna Cooper, Deb & Todd Frederick, Melissa & Glen Gee, Jean Hayward, Lynn Kormondy, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Dennis Martino, Carolyn McKenna, Midline Studios, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page, John Priest, Edward Puknys, Ellen Rashbaum, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, William Rothrum, Marie & Bruce Sampson, Deborah Van Atta, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman**

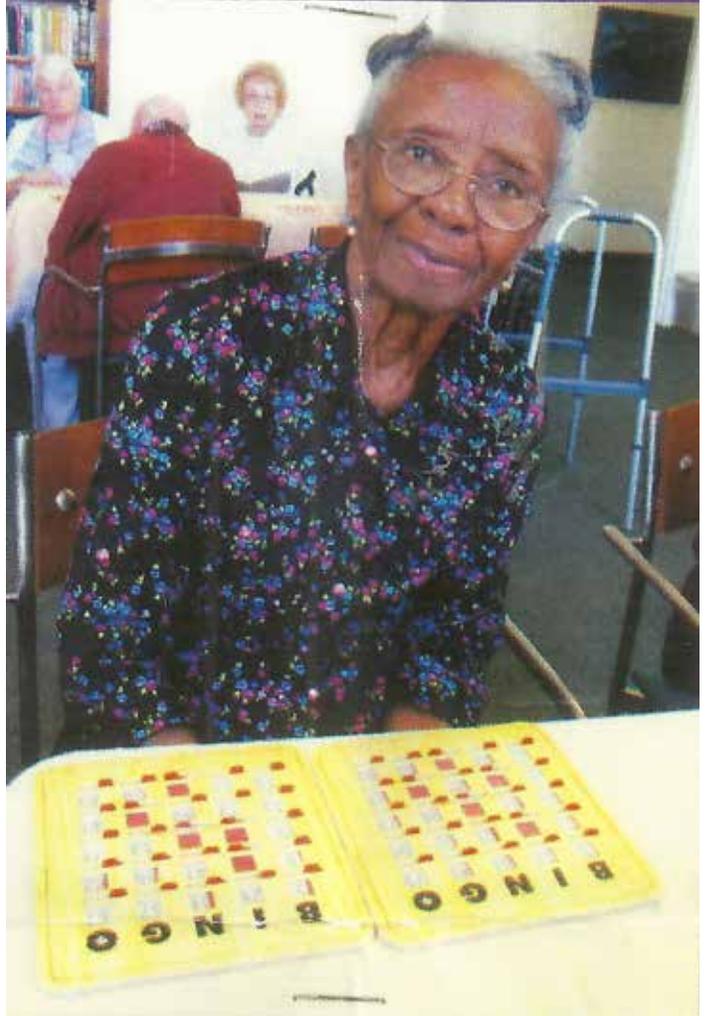
**Boosters (\$24 and below): Sharon Birenbaum, Warren Cockrel, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, Gloria Galindo, John Greenwood, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Maryann Hrichak, Margaret Laws, Diane & Bob Silver**

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



## Emelda Toups Remembered

While you may not have known her by name, you might remember seeing a gracious elderly woman in the vicinity of Waller and Cole Street. With a friendly smile for all who passed, Emelda Toups was a wonderful friend and neighbor to those of us lucky enough to have known her. Not only did she remain engaged regarding issues concerning our neighborhood (as a member of the Waller Street Association), she made baby blankets for every newborn within her purview. For decades she was a loyal member of the Hamilton



Emelda Lockett Toups was born on Aug. 6, 1925 and died on Dec. 12, 2016.

Methodist Church, hanging on in spite of its assignment to a Tongan congregation with services in a language she didn't understand, until the church's inevitable demise in 2006.

Much of what many of us did not know about "Mell" was that she was born in 1925 in New Orleans and moved to Los Angeles to live with her parents, when her husband was sent off to war. After the end of WWII, she and her three children moved to San Francisco into the first Hunters Point Naval Shipyard housing project. In time, they moved to the Haight Ashbury, where she received her nursing credentials from John Adams Community College. She then spent the next twenty years working at Laguna Honda Hospital.

Emelda died just before Christmas and although she may have felt satisfied, while looking back on her long, productive life, for those of us who were the recipients of her kind words, sound advice and friendly greetings, she left us much too soon.

—Marianne Hesse

## Zam Zam Placed on the Legacy Business Registry

In December 2016, the Small Business Commission placed 15 businesses on the Legacy Business Registry, among them was Zam Zam at 1633 Haight Street. The Persian themed bar, originally called Aub Zam Zam and famously owned by Bruno Mooshei until his death in 2000, was christened by Herb Caen as The Shrine to the Dry Martini. Current owner Bob Clark keeps the old traditions but without the rancor. It was said that if Bruno hadn't ordered you out for breaking one of his

Photo: Aubrie Pick



*Zam Zam tradition: Only women get a cocktail napkin without asking.*

arbitrary rules, you couldn't consider yourself a true Haight Ashburyian. Noted for its Martinis, which seem to be a little more generous these days (praise be) with the current management, the bartenders succeed in mixing locals with tourists in a much more convivial way than did Bruno.

Zam Zam joins Cole Hardware and The Booksmith, which received the honor last year. Some of the other businesses deemed "legacy" in this latest go-round are Arrow Stamp & Coin Company, Britex Fabrics, Sacred Grounds Café and Golden Gate Fortune Cookies. The city's Small Business Bulletin explains that, "The Legacy Business Registry recognizes longstanding, community-serving businesses as valuable cultural assets to the city and provides educational and promotional assistance to encourage their continued viability and success in San Francisco." For a complete list of the 64 businesses placed on the Legacy Business Registry, go to <http://sfsb.org/legacy-business/registry>.

## Ask The Dog to Do It

Photos: Edward C. Walls



*Before and After: A sign required by the city identifying the location of the gas meter has been incorporated creatively by artist Angela Tirrell in her fanciful mural on the wall of 930 Cole Street.*

## Vandal Advertises Website

Someone with an axe to grind rampaged through the Haight on the night of January 11 with a red spray can scrawling OLEVAU.COM over storefronts and residences. Undaunted by high-end murals such as the one of Jerry Garcia on Cole, the crude lettering was smeared over windows, woodwork, brick and even the multicolored tile on Jammin' on Haight, at the corner of Haight and Masonic. Christian Calinsky,



*There was no art in this graffiti, just mindless destruction.*

director of Taking it To The Streets, commented, "we spent an entire day cleaning up this person's mess. Police have been alerted and his picture has been distributed throughout the neighborhood."

Hoodline's Camden Avery wrote on January 18, "Until recently, all we knew about Olevau.com was that it appears to be a rudimentary Internet posting board for strange photos and random observations, largely in and around the Bay Area, and particularly in the Haight."

Fingers are pointing to the website's manager, Carl Adams, to take the fall but someone might be setting him up. Now its up to the police.

—Karen Crommie

## Sewer Work Blocks Frederick



*The Department of Public Works is methodically replacing the city's ageing sewer lines, some over one hundred years old. Neighbors watched as crews used excavators, front-end loaders and concrete mixers as part of a 20 year plan for infrastructure improvement.*

## When Empty Storefronts Do Not Mean Economic Blight

Foot traffic on Haight Street has never been heavier. So why are there so many empty storefronts? This incongruity is not only because of the obvious vibrancy of the neighborhood, but also in light of business owners elaborate preparation for the anticipated influx of tourists during the “Summer of Love’s” fiftieth anniversary.

It seems that building owners are stuck between a rock and a hard place—that is, unless they are willing to reduce rents. The monthly tariff on a single storefront is \$5,000 to \$8,000. On the other hand, the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Commercial District prohibits additional liquor licenses, while more recent legislation outlaws chains with over 11 stores (called Formula Retail). This leaves a single category: successful internet businesses that want a brick and mortar outlet in the Haight. Examples are Black Scale, Cookies, Pink Dolphin and Diamond Supply. With a few exceptions, they don’t display much merchandize and are frequently empty of customers unless featuring a “new release” or an event with a band (usually unpermitted) or a photo op with a popular DJ. Still, these stores have the big bucks to meet the asking price. The question is, are they good for the neighborhood?

On January 31, Hoodline.com’s ace reporter, Camden Avery, posted a list of former Haight Street businesses that are now gone:

■ Fresh (1603 Haight St.) remains closed and for lease (\$6,000/month).

■ Kids Only (1608 Haight St.) is still closed and undergoing renovation after its closure nearly a year ago to the day. No new businesses appear set to move on the space.



■ Dollhouse Bettie (1614 Haight St.), the 825-square-foot storefront adjacent to Zam Zam, remains closed and available.

■ Haight Ashbury Vintage (1711 Haight St.) remains closed and for lease after a year and a half. Recent construction inside included new concrete floors, but so far the space is still on the market.

■ Skunkfunk (1475 Haight St.) remains shuttered and for lease after nearly two years, with no buyer in sight. The space is still listed for \$5/ square foot, or \$7,500 per month.

■ Hyperoptics (1463 Haight St.), initially vacated almost two years ago when the optometrist moved to its new digs on the 1700 block, is under construction in part of a makeover that appears to be for “Haight St. Hot Dogs.”



■ Ducks In A Row (1510 Haight St.) closed at the end of the year to consolidate into their web store. Owners are quiet about whether the space has a taker.

■ Haight St. Shoe Repair (1614 Haight St.), which closed in December of 2015 when owner Carlos Lopez retired to move to Nicaragua, is also still unoccupied.

■ Second Act (1727 Haight St.) is currently closed following a fall run as The Bindery, a satellite store for The Booksmith (where Camden Avery also works). The doors are scheduled to open for good this spring following some renovations on the space.



■ Reincarnation (1784 Haight St.), the 13-year Tibetan gift fixture at Haight and Shrader closed earlier this month with little notice. The shop, which famously advertised a “going out of business sale” for years, posted a thank you to the community in the window, which also directed patrons to Love of Ganesha (1573 Haight St.)

■ Super7 (1427 Haight St.) closed this winter to consolidate its brick-and-mortar operations into its other location in the Mission. An overhaul on the space is already in the works, with neighboring retailer Cookies set to move in following the renovation.

Thanks again to Hoodline.com’s Camden Avery (also esteemed member of the Booksmith staff) for this list.

## Your Inner Gardener Calls

Every fourth Saturday, from 9 a.m. until noon, volunteers are needed to help with gardening in the area of Alford Lake. Go to Haight and Stryan Street and look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine the exact location within the area. Connect with this beautiful little corner of Golden Gate Park by getting sweaty and meeting other good souls who care about the neighborhood.



Typical gardening tasks include weeding, planting, mulching and clean-up. Many hands make light work, so please consider joining this monthly effort. Plan to wear appropriate clothing for working outdoors and prepare for varied weather.

Light refreshments will be supplied courtesy of McDonald’s. So that there are enough tools on hand, please contact the Rec and Park volunteer center at [recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org](mailto:recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org) or call 415-831-6330 to let them know that you are coming. Or, hey, just show up.

**CVIA now has its own TELEPHONE number. Thanks to a forwarding message system by Google, members can leave a message, which will automatically be forwarded to the president’s home phone. As office holder changes, it can be rerouted appropriately. Please use it to contact us regarding location of monthly board meetings or other concerns. The number is 415-993-2842**

# Grattan Loses Beloved Teacher Amidst Acrimony

Had the KQED-FM fundraising drive not been going on, I never would have tuned in to KALW on a Monday night, where the Board of Education's semi-weekly meeting was being broadcast. After hearing about sensitivity training for SF teachers with students who are Inuit



Grattan students range from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

natives of Alaska and a long mea culpa by the Superintendent for the appearance of "Columbus Day" on a calendar somewhere in the school district, there was a comment period given to parents and students of Grattan School. One by one, they went to the microphone to protest the reassignment of a much-loved paraprofessional, Philip Marcoccio, known as "Mr. Philip."

This is the stuff of novels. It seems that Mr. Philip was the subject of a parent complaint regarding him taking a student to a café off campus.



Students spoke about the joy that Mr. Philip brought to the classroom.

The story, which was never explained during the course of the School Board meeting, but later revealed on KTVU, explained that Marcoccio, on his way to Le Boulangerie, and finding a student unsuccessfully looking for her classroom, which had been changed, brought the child with him to the café and returned to school soon after.

As parents and students gave their testimony, it was clear that Marcoccio was an integral part of the school's culture. In fact, he and his wife Margaret, a third grade teacher, were married in the courtyard. He headed the computer lab, sponsored student clubs, started the bee keeping project and generally raised the spirits of a student population of widely varying ethnicity and economic status by his zany approach to the serious subjects to which he was devoted. Grattan is one of San

Francisco's exemplary public elementary schools. Mr. Philip was hired by the Grattan PTA whose fundraising activities pay his salary.

The parents have organized a defense to reinstate him which involved a boycott of school attendance, demonstrations at the SF Unified School offices and a petition with 400 some signatures, along with hundreds of letters.

Hoodline.com's reporter Cameron Avery, spoke to parent Abbe Clemons, who told him, "I live across the street and often see teachers walking with kids in Cole Valley ... this is a practice that has been going on at Grattan for years, if not decades, and although I'm sure a district policy exists prohibiting this, it is something that has become a relatively normal practice." She described Marcoccio as "the glue of the school."

In spite of this, the School District will not relent. Philip Marcoccio will be transferred to another school. See their letter below.

—Karen Crommie

**SFUSD** SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 20, 2017

Dear Grattan School Community:

We are writing to provide an update on a situation affecting our school community. Yesterday, we let you know that Grattan Paraprofessional Philip Marcoccio will be transferred to another school.

As many of you know, a concern was raised regarding an incident between a staff member and one of your students earlier in the school year. As a result, the District conducted an investigation. It has been determined that it is necessary to reassign Philip Marcoccio to another SFUSD school.

We want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly. All matters reported to the school district are taken seriously, given careful investigation, and receive due process.

As a general practice, reported cases are reviewed by multiple departments, including Human Resources, the corresponding Assistant Superintendent, Legal, and the Office of the Superintendent, to collaboratively arrive at an appropriate decision based on any findings.

It is our collective responsibility to take an objective look at any reported case. This includes a gathering of facts and interviews with those directly involved in any reported incident. After observing this kind of process in this specific case, a determination has been made to transfer Mr. Marcoccio.

We understand that the school community may be left wanting to hear more details. However, this is a personnel matter that cannot be subject to a public review. It is also important that we respect the privacy of the student, family, and employee involved.

In light of recent testimony and communications offered by students and families, we are fully aware that Mr. Marcoccio has played a special and important role at Grattan for many years. Central office department leaders will collaborate with the school's administration to address any resulting staffing need or impact to the school's instructional programming. This includes the identification of a qualified candidate to support the computer lab.

Again, we fully understand that this is upsetting news for many. While we cannot provide additional details about this incident, the investigation, or decision to transfer Mr. Marcoccio, we are committed to addressing your concerns to the extent possible moving forward.

Sincerely,

Myong Leigh  
Interim Superintendent

Guadalupe Guerrero  
Deputy Superintendent

## POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain John Sanford 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 14, April 11, May 9**  
**Mark Your Calendars**

## Have an Embarrassment of Riches? Sharing is Easy

Did you know that the Department of Public Works has a "gleaning" office that will come and harvest lemons or other fruit (you indicate how



much you want to retain) and take them to the Food Bank? There's no reason to waste, just contact Philip.Singh@sfdpw for a gleaning appointment. And if you have not yet registered your lemon tree with Just One Tree, San Francisco's lemon tree sustainability project, please do so at [www.JustOneTree.org](http://www.JustOneTree.org). You can also get good lemon recipes on our site!

—Isabel Wade, Chief Lemon Ambassador, Just One Tree

## Help the Earth and... Yourself

The SF Public Utilities Commission is offering more rebates and incentives to support water conservation. Replacing old, inefficient plumbing fixtures can not only save water but also reduce monthly rates. It may be raining now, but the years of drought have severely threatened our regional water supplies. Apply now to check your eligibility for a new toilet replacement program that just started last month (January, 2017).

- Commercial Washer - now up to \$500
- Residential Graywater Systems
- Commercial Solar
- Residential Turf Replacement
- Residential Rain Barrel Program
- Large Landscape Improvement Grants
- Commercial Equipment Grants

For more information go to [waterconservation@sfgwater.org](mailto:waterconservation@sfgwater.org) or call customer services at 415-551-3000.

## Single Day Projects Sought

San Francisco Beautiful wants to partner with neighborhood groups on a program they call "Done in a Day," which are projects that enhance "neighborhood character" and can be completed in one day, for example cleaning up a vacant lot or planting a community garden. They will choose one of these community projects and help coordinate it, supply additional volunteers and, potentially, materials. If you have an



*Present your ideas for beautification projects to the CVIA Board.*

idea for such an endeavor in Cole Valley or the Haight Ashbury, please attend a CVIA board meeting and tell us about it. If thought sound, we will support your presentation to SFB and help recruit workers. In the meantime, look around for a possible project. CVIA Board meetings are every first Monday at the home of a member. Call 415-993-2842 for location if you wish to attend.

## Changes in City Government

Just in case you've been distracted by recent changes in national politics, San Francisco, too, has made changes. There are four new Supervisors. Sandra Lee Fewer replaced termed-out Eric Mar in District 1,



*Jeff Sheehy District 8*



*Sandra Lee Fewer District 1*



*Ahsha Safai District 11*



*Hillary Ronen District 9*

Hillary Ronen replaced termed-out David Campos, in District 9, Ahsha Safai replaced termed-out John Avalos in District 11 and Jeff Sheehy was appointed by Mayor Lee to replace Scott Wiener in District 8. As you might remember, Wiener was elected to California State Senate District 11 and replaces termed-out Mark Leno. Board of Supervisor's President London Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and Supervisor Norman Yee all retained their seats.

## New Sutro Forest Plan Reviewed at Public Meeting

### What this is about

You are invited to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scoping meeting for the proposed Vegetation Management Plan (plan) for the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss concerns and potential issues related to the environmental review.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017

Place: Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus Avenue.

### Background

The University-owned Reserve is a largely undeveloped 61-acre forest located within UCSF's Parnassus Heights campus site at the center of San Francisco. The Reserve is surrounded by UCSF's hospital, research, educational and support structures to the north/northwest,



*Sutro Forest is a unique tract of wilderness right here in our neighborhood.*

and by urban residential neighborhoods to the south, east, and west. The Reserve, designated as permanent open space by the Regents of the University of California, is open to the public and serves as a point of respite and recreation for UCSF and for the greater community. The primary purposes of the proposed plan fall into four broad categories:

- Protect the safety of Reserve users and adjacent campus and residential properties
- Improve and enhance the health and stability of the ecosystem
- Enhance the visual design and aesthetic experience in the Reserve
- Maintain and ensure public access to the Reserve

To achieve a healthy and stable ecosystem, the plan outlines strategies for increasing the biodiversity of vegetation, conserving existing native vegetation, improving the regeneration and recruitment of tall tree species, managing insect and disease pressure on blue gum eucalyptus, and improving structural diversity. The purpose of the plan is to provide a management framework for protecting, enhancing, and restoring vegetation in the 61-acre Reserve. University staff worked with consultants and a panel of technical advisors to develop the plan.

### Initial Study

A Notice of Preparation/Initial Study will be available online for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning February 6, 2017 through March 8, 2017. It also identifies the scope and content of the environmental information that will be included in the Draft EIR. You can obtain a paper version of the Initial Study by calling (415) 476-2911. To give written feedback on the Initial Study, please write to Diane Wong, UCSF Campus Planning, Box 0286, San Francisco, CA 94143 or email her at [EIR@planning.UCSF.edu](mailto:EIR@planning.UCSF.edu) by the end of the comment period, March 8, 2017.

If you have questions or concerns about this event, please contact: Christine Gasparac, Director, [christine.gasparac@ucsf.edu](mailto:christine.gasparac@ucsf.edu)

## N-Judah to Get New Trains

For years, the N-Judah line, which carries an average of 40,000 passengers each day, has suffered from overcrowding, especially at Cole Valley's two stops at Carl and Stanyan and Carl and Cole.

More than 100 passengers a day are typically unable to board a N-Judah because of overcrowding, said SFMTA spokesman Paul Rose.



*Muni's first brand-new Metro train is expected to begin testing along the N-Judah line immediately.*

For that reason the first three new Muni trains have been earmarked for the N-Judah line—although there is a potential problem with 3-car trains being too long for some blocks, particularly between Cole and Shrader.

In spite of the SFMTA's efforts during the last five years to relieve crowding, most recently by adding the N-Judah two-car shuttle last fall, overcrowding still remains a problem.

## Officer Appreciation Day

Park Police Station's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) worked hard to make Officer Appreciation Day, January 9, especially memorable for the station.

The break room at the station was in need of a facelift and cleaning. This was accomplished by several hard workers. Cooking utensils and small appliances were replaced with new workable versions to the delight of the officers at the station.

On the day of the event, each shift was greeted by a CPAB volunteer or two as officers came to enjoy the meals provided by local merchants



*Park Station Captain John Sanford and Commander Ann Mannix (far left) pose with Officers of the Month Jennifer Thompson and Terrie Grady.*

and donations from neighborhood groups—a fitting thank you to our hard working Park Station Police officers.

—Lena Emmery  
CVIA Representative to CPAB

## 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 415-993-2842 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 Long Range Planning CAC and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

### January

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – January 2, 2017  
Board welcomed guests Lily Wong (UCSF community relations representative) and member Edward Walls.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$23,596.28 out of which \$7,117.44 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$1,004.00 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. Santa on Cole netted \$2,772 to help support the continuation of our 7-day a week cleaning of Cole Street's commercial corridor. The Board was delighted by the announcement of a donation of \$1,000 from longtime members Les Silverman and Irv Govan.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena Emmery reported that Park Police Station was successful in obtaining 30 new bicycles for students who participated in Captain Sanford's essay contest on how to keep "Peace on the Streets." This was a collaborative effort between the staffs of Park Police Station, Avenue Cyclery and Splunk Inc., who all helped in assembling the bikes. She also noted that January 9 is Police Appreciation Day during which each shift will be treated to a special meal. Lena encouraged the Board to attend the "Meet the (police) Beat" event on January 17 on Delmar at Piedmont streets from 5 to 7 p.m.

■ President Chuck Canepa reported that the renovation of the Clinical Science Building is nearing completion and will reopen in early Spring. Also, that UCSF intends to rebuild the guardrails on Medical Center Way (cost: \$700,000).

■ Lily Wong, UCSF community relations representative, explained the plans for managing Sutro Forest and noted that the Technical Advisory Committee on the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve will hold a fourth meeting, before publishing a draft of their long-range management plan, on Monday, January 23 at Millberry Union, 6:30 p.m. A special neighborhood meeting will be held on February 8 for the "Parnassus Community" in the Faculty Alumni House, 745 Parnassus, at 6:30 p.m.

■ Reporting on recent meeting of the Kezar Advisory Board, Lena Emmery described locker room and lighting improvements to Kezar Stadium to accommodate the "Deltas" professional soccer team. She noted that, in addition to alcohol sales in certain sections during the games, Rec and Park's director of permits and property management Dana Ketcham announced that pre-event drinks will also be available in the Kezar Triangle. Apparently there is a precedent for this by other commercial users of that area of the park.

■ With regard to the Cole and Carl T-shirts produced by CVIA for fundraising and available at Postal Chase, it had been suggested that Cole Hardware also sell them. Lack of interest indicates that we should limit sales to Postal Chase.

■ The yoga studio earlier reported to be one of the three occupants of the former Cole Garage (930 Cole St.) has backed out, leaving that space available for alternate use.

■ Joan Downey obtained a general phone number through Google for CVIA that will be linked to the telephone of the current president, in

this case, Chuck Canepa. The number is 415-993-2842. Amy Blakeley will note this on the CVIA website.

■ Joan Downey, member of the MTA citizens' advisory counsel, proposed a motion to support cameras to detect speeding cars, citing the correlation between pedestrian injuries and speeding. After a protracted discussion involving digital privacy, MTA incompetence, etc., the Board voted against support of speeding cameras 6 to 2. Motion Failed.

■ Discussed protocol for upcoming Four-Twenty pot fest in Sharon Meadow. Control is a conundrum: the Department of Public Health has jurisdiction over anything involving use of marijuana and Rec and Park cannot issue a permit for anything drug-related. Concern is focused on the fact that 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love so increased participation is anticipated. Muni routes will be rerouted. If following the precedent of past years, SFPD will not cite drug users within the park but will close down any commercial sales of pot in any form.

### February

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse – February 6, 2017

Board welcomed CVIA members Edward Walls and Paul Williams. In the absence of President Chuck Canepa, meeting was lead by VP Carole Glosenger.

■ There was no report from treasurer Joan Downey, who was traveling.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena Emmery reported that the new police posting on Cole and Haight was being criticized by members of the Homeless Youth Alliance, who distribute needles to intravenous drug users from a van parked nearby, claiming that the police presence had a chilling affect on their clients. (Note: Board members wrote letters supporting the presence of the officers at that location.)

■ President Chuck Canepa, who was excused because of a family emergency, submitted his report regarding the publication of UCSF's Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve Vegetation Management Plan. A draft is now online at campusplanning.ucsf.edu and comments are encouraged. A meeting on February 23 at Millberry Union (500 Parnassus) at 6:30 p.m. will review both the plan and the comments.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar Advisory Committee will meet on February 15 for an update on the use of the stadium by the Deltas professional soccer club.

■ Karen Crommie reviewed a presentation to the CSFN in January on sewer replacement by the SFPUC. She also reported with dismay the reluctance of the CSFN delegates to accept the application of a qualified Marina organization for membership because it had a realtor and a lobbyist on its board.

■ Edward Walls reported that the Carl Hotel, frequently used for out-of-town family members as well as relatives of those receiving treatment at UCSF, is now only accepting guests staying 7 days or more. Beginning March 1, in compliance with the Planning Department code amendments, the hotel will have a minimum stay of 30 days. A loss to the neighborhood.

■ A discussion of CVIA's participation in the \$50,000 grant given to the Friends of the Urban Forest for use in Cole Valley was carried over to the next meeting, when more information will be available.

■ A consideration of negotiations for commissioning a mural on the south wall of 1101 Cole Street (formerly Doug's Suds) has been postponed to the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

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

# History of CVIA

The Cole Valley improvement Association evolved from a neighborhood SAFE block group formed by Alan Merbaum on Cole Street in 1987. The group quickly discovered that they had common interests beyond Cole Street as the neighborhood was experiencing



Alan Merbaum, founded CVIA.

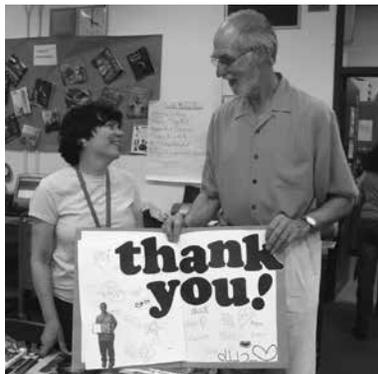
increasing frequency of drug sales and camping—particularly in the Panhandle and the Stanyan Street entrance to the park (Alvord Lake). Following the path set by the nine venues of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, an increasing number of old flats were being converted into social services. There were fewer families with vested interests in the neighborhood.

CVIA took a very public and forceful position in January of 1988 when Mayor Art Agnos, in violation of a city ordinance, permitted individuals to sleep in vehicles parked on the streets bordering the Panhandle and Kezar Stadium. The mayor's decision resulted in an influx of car campers. With no public toilets, driveways became the solution. As we met with members of the Board of Supervisors, pushed for television coverage of the issue and organized letter writing and telephone campaigns, we succeeded in convincing the



CVIA worked with other neighborhood groups to move the recycling center out of Golden Gate Park and replace it with a community garden.

Mayor that this was a bad idea and he retreated. As a result, scores of Haight families joined CVIA, expanding our membership far beyond Cole Valley. Our boundaries are now from Arguello on the west, to Divisadero on the east; Fell on the north to 17th Street on the south.



Grattan School expresses thanks to CVIA for significant contributions to their library book fund.

Although we are primarily a resident group and are active members of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN), we never forget how important a healthy commercial district is in the wellbeing of the community and value our merchant members. In the seventies, Haight Street was a dead zone of boarded-up buildings. Banks “redlined” the whole Greater Haight neighborhood and it was difficult for homebuyers to secure a loan. It was a long road back and we no longer frown on businesses that are not “neighborhood serving,” realizing that times have changed. So, although we do not want an influx of chain stores, we do want to support our merchants in keeping shoppers coming. Having said that, one of the greatest dangers is that Haight Street will become an entertainment venue. We

closely watch those kinds of expansions in operating permits—both in restaurants and bars.

Twelve years ago the CSFN passed a resolution supporting CVIA in urging Rec and Park to finally remove the recycling center from Golden Gate Park. What had been a great community service in past decades became a detriment once the city adopted its own doorstep recycling system and they were forced to function as a transfer station. Finally, a deputy sheriff came out and bolted the gate. That was a win for us and the groups that worked alongside us. Quickly Rec and Park installed a popular community garden. Where once there had been large trucks, cargo containers and the constant sound of breaking glass, there was the soft thud of spades breaking earth. The Park's general manager, Phil Ginsburg, against enormous pushback, was able to finally carry out what other general managers had been trying to do all the way back to Mary Burns.



CVIA's Joan Downey organized the fair for 6 years.

Currently CVIA's biggest effort is the twice daily cleaning of the sidewalks in the Cole Street commercial corridor. For seven years we



CVIA pays to have Cole Street swept twice-a-day, seven days a week.

have paid CleanScapes, and now Recology, to do this at a cost of \$936 per month. This is a lot of money to raise. For six years we produced the Cole Valley Fair and used the profit to pay for it and, also, grants to Grattan School. But four years ago we handed over the fair to the owners of Midline and Lavation fitness studios and so our coffers are steadily diminishing. We now raise money from memberships, private donations and from our holiday Photo Op with Santa Claus.

*Ed. note: Every two years CVIA News publishes the above history for the benefit of new members... and old members who have forgotten.*

**A CLEAN  
COLE  
STREET**



**Our Neighborhood Heroes**  
2016 Merchant Participants

**Bambinos, BurgerMeister, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Jerome's Antiques, Pacific American Group, \* Postal Chase.**

\*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

# Coming: The 50th Anniversary of Summer of Love

The golden anniversary of the Summer of Love will be here in a few short months. The city anticipates 100,000 people flocking into the neighborhood, particularly for a big concert scheduled in the Polo Fields on Sunday, June 4th. Although the permit has been held up at the time of this writing, most expect that longtime producer Boots Hughston to pull it off. And a few might figure, hey, why not stay on and catch the Haight Ashbury Street Fair the following week?

According to Sunny Powers (owner of Love on Haight, 1400 Haight St.), the focus will be on the neighborhood's stellar street clean-

Photo: Katsville (Wordpress.com)



No, it won't be exactly like 1967 but the impact on the neighborhood will be enormous.

ing project, "Taking It To The Streets," employing homeless youth and providing them with housing in exchange for work. Powers describes a trail of hearts running up and down Haight St. with utility poles bearing "rainbow lights."

In fact, it's already begun with the stunning Summer of Love art exhibition in City Hall featuring 80 historic images from that era, photographed by the late Jim Marshall. All is revealed at 50thsummeroflove.com.

## 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](mailto:cviasf@aol.com)



The neighborhood is steeling itself for another onslaught on April 20 (4-20) when Sharon Meadow will be packed for the annual marijuana smoke-out. Traffic will come to a standstill, garbage will pile up, and the overflow crowd will spill onto surrounding streets. Be prepared but not distraught.

# Postscripts

Owners of the building that once housed **Doug's Suds** filed for a permit to put in a kitchen a few months ago and neighbors say the spot, empty for over a year, will be a coffee shop. What's holding them up? The Planning Department has designated their permit file "closed."

\* \* \*

Neighbors are complaining loudly about the prices for basics at **Luke's Local**. I think the problem is that, in attempting a smooth transition, Luke's may have slightly overstated their capability to actually replace



the services of **Alpha Market**. Luke's focus is providing pre-made dishes which, by all reports, are very good. But offering kitchen staples at supermarket prices may be stretching their business model too far.

\* \* \*

Cole Valley families are not alone. There is a growing group of parents who exchange information online through [colevalleyparents@googlegroups.com](mailto:colevalleyparents@googlegroups.com). Tried-and true-nannies, Baby Bjorn gear, clothing in good condition, you get the picture. Anything is apt to turn up on the website —even some boosting (yes) of the SF Unified School District. People posting seem legit and sincere

\* \* \*

For some reason motorists have a penchant for driving their cars through the **Sunset Tunnel** at Carl Street. The arched opening



seems to attract cars like a magnet. Four different cars last month had to be hauled out. Obviously, the round neon sign, bright as it is, isn't doing the job.

\*\*\*



If you've been going to Steiner street to have your hair cut, you can stop. **Vierra and Friends** are back in their old spot after having to relocate during the seismic retrofit of the building at 85 Carl. The scissors are sharpened, the shampoo bottles full and staff is eager to welcome back their old customers.

\*\*\*

Do you want to become involved in local neighborhood and citywide issues? Would you like to gain experience working in a local government office?

**Supervisor London Breed** is looking for hard-working and passionate District 5 residents and/or college students to help support her and her staff. For more information and to apply, please go to [lbreedstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:lbreedstaff@sfgov.org)

\*\*\*

Who was to blame? A small sand dune blocked the intersection of **Cole and Frederick** for three days. Broken sandbags? Sewer construction mishap? The crosswalk was impassable to all but the agile.

\*\*\*

Although it's often confusing, the **northern Panhandle path** is a city-approved, legal route for both bicyclists and pedestrians to share.

\*\*\*

The **Haight Seniors group** meets every third Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There is also a "conversation and creativity" session every first Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30. Both meet in the Park Branch Library community room (1833 Page).



Photo: Edward C. Walls

—Karen Crommie

**CVIA Officers**

- President..... Chuck Canepa
- Vice President .....Carole Glosenger
- Treasurer .....Joan Downey
- Recording Secretary .....Karen Crommie
- Membership .....Lena Emmery
- Community Relations .....Amy 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 Winter edition should be sent before May 1, 2017 to [CVIASF@aol.com](mailto:CVIASF@aol.com). We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

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# Help

- Emergency .....911
- Disturbance .....553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks ...553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles .....781-5865
- Health Department .....255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal .....311
- NextBus .....311
- Street Lighting.....554-0730

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### BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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



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