



APRIL 2019

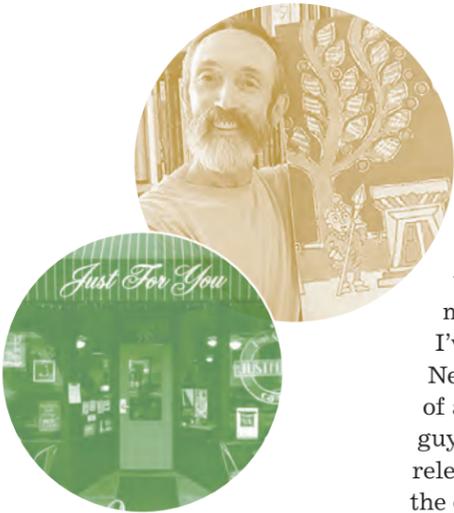
Serving the Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Mission Bay and SOMA Neighborhoods Since 1970

FREE

There are lots of things for which to be grateful. A baby's soft laugh, a puppy's cutely clumsy gait, the rain. Our lives are filled with people, places, and things that bring us joy, comfort, safety, and much more. In this issue of the *View* we identify a number of the boons our communities are blessed to have. The list is by no means exhaustive. We acknowledge that there are omissions, which we hope won't be interpreted as a lack of gratitude for them, but rather that we just don't have room to celebrate all of the infinite elements that make life a pleasure. ♥ There are a number of people for whom I'm particularly grateful. I've had the privilege of being friends with Chris Block, who for a period chaired the Eastern Neighborhood Citizen Advisory Committee, for more than 20 years. Chris is the embodiment of a Good Samaritan, even if when he was younger he initially presented as a tattooed tough guy; today he mostly embodies a Buddha spirit. He's pursued a career and personal path that's relentlessly focused on helping to shelter and compassionately support the most vulnerable, in the context of crafting space for honest dialogue and courageous sharing. Chris is the kind of person who automatically reaches his hand out to help someone who has fallen, and helps dust them off. He's good at what he does, and what he does is good. Oh, and he gave one of his kidneys to a friend who would've died without it. ♥ My wife, Debbie Findling, is

Gratitude BY STEVEN J. MOSS

awesome in so many ways. Most notable to the outside world is her work chasing down a sexual predator in the Jewish community, catalyzing, after too many years of passive acceptance of his evil behavior, his early-retirement and the wholesale resignation of the entire board of the organization that didn't do its job to protect staff and young persons. Prompted by our fertility losses, she co-founded the Memory Garden, a first-of-its-kind place to mourn miscarriages, stillbirths, and other lost dreams within the context of Jewish teachings. In doing so she honors what our family could have been, while widely and warmly welcoming other bereaved people to do the same. Debbie, I love you. ♥ Community service to Keith Goldstein is like breathing. For decades he's helped neighborhood merchants grapple with constant land use and transportation challenges, and put his shoulder to many efforts to cultivate area amenities and cohesiveness for residents of today and tomorrow. He volunteers to feed the hungry, and works to improve the lives of Nepalese and Rwandans, among others. He, along with stalwarts like Jean Bogiages, J.R. Eppler, Bruce Huie, and a multitude of our neighbors embody what it means to be a good and honorable citizen. ♥ Good and honorable also describe Kayren Hudiburgh and Lester Zeidman, co-owners of The Good Life Grocery, which first emerged as a revolutionary effort to offer authentic food that nurtures people and their communities. Like Keith, Kayren and Lester are devoted to civic engagement, whether it be in Bernal Heights, Hawaii, Port Costa, or Potrero Hill. If there were statues honoring the essential people who helped create the better aspects of the Hill, and San Francisco, Kayren and Lester would be among them. ♥ Perhaps my deepest gratitude, at least from my role as the *View's* publisher and editor, is to the paper's staff, advertisers and readers. We would not exist without you. I'd like to think that together we create more informed, engaged, and energized communities, and help foster a democracy that sometimes feels fragile. Thank you.



So much to be grateful for...

Art Agnos served as San Francisco's 39th mayor from 1988 to 1992, and was the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Regional Head from 1993 to 2001. More importantly, he's long been an engaged and charismatic Connecticut Street resident, helping to save and enliven Daniel Webster Elementary School and advocate for responsible growth along the Waterfront. He is awesome.



Dogpatch resident, **Dennis Herrera**, is without a doubt the country's best city attorney. He doggedly pursues justice for San Franciscans, particularly the most vulnerable among us; his excellence is reflected by the loyalty of his high-quality staff. We are lucky to have him.

Jeff Adachi, who died earlier this year at just 59-years-old, embodied many of the characteristics that make San Francisco what it is, or at least what it was. As our Public Defender Jeff and his dedicated crew represented thousands of defendants who could not afford their own attorney. He was a courageous and tenacious advocate for the people. His passing renders a stitch in our City's civic and human fabric.



Nancy Pelosi. The *View* was an early and ardent supporter when she ran in 1986, and, my goodness, how that's paid off for our City and the country. Nancy may be the most talented Speaker of the House in the nation's history; her skills have reached their apex at exactly the right political moment. You go, Nancy!

Views. They speak for themselves. Happy sigh.

Big Wheel Race: A celebration of well-managed, fantastically fun, creative anarchy, that perfectly merges artistic, wheeled, self-expression with San Francisco's first, or second, depending on how its measured, most-curviest street.



Food Bank: Feeding hungry people. Pretty basic human expression of compassion, centered right here, in our own neighborhood.

Farley's pet parade: Pets in costumes, strutting their stuff at an event in which everyone's a winner, not least of all the spectators. Even better might be Farley's Fourth of July street celebration, which nurtures the Hill's exceptional small-town feel. The community's cup runneth over.

Through meetings and negotiations, the **Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** advocates for construction and improvement projects that match the community's collectively articulated needs. Dogpatch's character and quality of life wouldn't be what it is without DNA's persistent efforts.

Its members are sharp, insistent, and affiliated with one of the City and County of San Francisco's oldest and most powerful citizens' advocacy groups: the **Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association**, which was founded in 1926. The Boosters are the best!



Peter Linenthal. Does every neighborhood have its own historian? We do! How singular is that?

Many a Hill kid's earliest childhood memory is of scooping sand, or swinging, at **Jackson Park**, which offers a cute clubhouse, accessible tennis courts, and athletic playing fields to boot. In many ways the park serves as the community's town square, at least for families, a role it's destined to enlarge as renovation efforts are realized.

Three-and-a-half-acre **Starr King Open Space**, which is owned by the community, was dedicated in 1984, protected from development to be enjoyed by all. And we owe it all to legions of volunteer managers and caretakers, who have steadily worked to cultivate native species on the site. Our very own open space is a star.

Founded in 1991, **Christopher's Books** is "...really a community space that happens to be a bookstore," accord-

ing to owner Tee Minot. She's right. This small, independent bookstore is a neighborhood gem.

McKinley Square: This oft-sunny open space, where many a toddler was first introduced to grass and communal play, has spectacular views and a busy, well-loved, playground. It's a popular spot for birthday parties and picnics, with enough space to kick a ball or romp with a dog. Plus, beautiful cypress trees.



Established in the early-1970s, the **Potrero Hill Community Garden** is one of several commons dispersed throughout Dogpatch and the Hill, including the Pennsylvania Garden. Located on a once-vacant lot, the patch consists of 51 plots organically maintained by Hill residents. It boasts

panoramic views of the Mission, Twin Peaks, and beyond. Its sunny, Mediterranean climate enables cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals, including dahlias, San Francisco's official flower.



Just for You: This more than 30-year-old eggs-and-bacon-slinger was an early pioneer to Dogpatch; Potrero Hill residents still mourn its loss from the 18th Street commercial strip. It's usually packed, with good reason: the menu's everything you could want for breakfast, including the Hangtown Fry: three scrambled eggs with bacon, oysters, and onions. According to JfY, "If this doesn't cure your hangover, you'd better just go back to bed."

San Francisco Fire Department's Station 37 was built in 1914 at the corner of 22nd and Wisconsin streets. Today, the post is notable for its striking brickwork and the elaborate terra cotta that adorns its façade. Plus, who doesn't love firefighters, for all they do, and all they will do.



Built in the 1940s, **Potrero Annex-Terrace** is among San Francisco's oldest public housing developments. It isn't pretty to look at, may not be all the comfortable to live in, and it's taking too long to replace the obsolete, hastily constructed, buildings. Still, the complex is home to roughly 1,300 people, of all ages, none of whom would be able to afford to reside in our neighborhood without Annex-Terrace. And that's a blessing, which'll become an even greater one when ongoing renovation efforts are finally completed.

Although less than one percent of San Franciscans identify as Episcopalian, **St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church**, on De Haro Street, draws a large congregation from around the Bay Area to its beautiful building, with about 20 percent of regular attendees Hill residents. Neighborhood and recovery groups use the church for meetings and events. Since 2001, a food pantry has distributed free groceries to hundreds of families. In a shaded area next to the structure's main entrance a bench and chalkboard enable people to write prayer requests and express what they're thankful for, much like the *View* is doing right now.

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church has about 200-member families, a small subset of the quarter of the City's population who are Catholic. The Church was established in the 1880s, expanding from a Third Street boarding house. A permanent church was built on Tennessee Street, but as the population migrated the structure was disassembled and rebuilt at its current 19th and Connecticut streets location. St. Teresa's is active in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; volunteers distribute groceries to the needy weekly; they make sandwiches for homeless individuals monthly.

The warmth and graciousness of **Pera's** staff draws Hillians repeatedly to this 18th Street eatery. Brothers and co-owners Metin and Earphan Yalçin are, quite frankly, splendid. Their menu features lots of variety, including small plates that can be shared family style, such as *saganaki*, a tasty pan-fried *halloumi* cheese presented on an iron skillet and set aflame tableside while the server says "Opa!" Plus, hum-

mus, *baba ganoush*, creamed spinach and salads, and Bird's Nest, a kind of zucchini casserole with crispy topping. Delicious!



The *View's* gratitude issue wouldn't be complete without mention of **Hazel's Kitchen**, a pocket-sized delicatessen that serves an impressive range of sandwiches, bagels, burritos, soups, and salads. Owner Leslie Goldberg and her staff greet guests with a warm smile; if you come back a couple times, they'll remember you and your order. And of course, neighbors are always



Serving Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Mission Bay and SOMA • Since 1970

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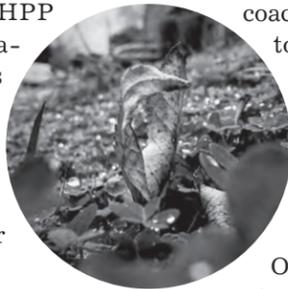
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GRATEFUL continues on next page

GRATEFUL from previous page

welcome to add their own message to the gratitude tree outside the shop.

Over the past 25 years more than 3,500 babies have been born with support from **Homeless Prenatal Program**, almost all healthy and drug-free. Catering to an under-resourced and vulnerable population, HPP combines prenatal education and parenting classes to help ensure fit birth outcomes and strong parent-child bonding. We're deeply grateful to have this great resource in our neighborhood.



Edna and Pablo Molina, along with J. Ferreira, manage **Pumas United**, a competitive and recreational soccer club that cultivates more than great playing skills. The Molina's stay on top of their players' game, on an off the field, placing academics first, deploying the discipline required for success in sports as a broader message about how to excel in life. Great soccer coaches and managers are hard to find, especially for teenage girls. Pumas United is a tiger of team.

From a View reader: "The O.K. Leaf," found by Odin Nguyen Marin in Oakland, November 2018, who dedicates the image to his "amazing violin/viola teacher **Erika Miranda**, in gratitude and appreciation."

The Potrero View thanks:

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- Mark Passen
- Mark Pearson
- And anyone we accidentally missed!



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Martin de Porres House of Hospitality is a free restaurant, serving breakfast and lunch weekdays, brunch on Sundays, though the main meal is a large portion of compassion, understanding and love. A community of people reflecting diverse spiritual practices, Martin is rooted in the Catholic Worker Movement, following the philosophy of "gentle personalism," in which all persons have dignity; eating is a right, not a privilege; feeding the hungry is a matter of justice, not charity. Since 1971, a year after the *View* was founded, Martin's volunteers have lived this commitment, helping others live lives of self-respect.

Top of Potrero Hill Home

952A De Haro Street

Offered at \$1,849,000 • More photos at 952ADeHaro.com

House-like, very private & completely detached large condominium in move-in condition w/stunning views on 2 levels and tranquil shared courtyard. Three large bedrooms plus added bonus room used as master suite and three full baths. Renovated in 2005, this home is set on the crest of Potrero Hill's Southern Heights, just steps from the coveted North Slope, it has views of Sutro Tower and the southern hills. Great floor plan with open/living/dining room, full bath and bedroom on upper level and two more bedrooms, bonus room with ensuite bath (used as the master bedroom), and an additional bath on the lower level. Video intercom, stainless steel appliances, Bosch dishwasher, marble bathrooms, Grohe fixtures, and washer/dryer. Common courtyard and one car parking in garage. Easy access to both Potrero and Mission restaurants and shops and freeways 101 and 280, Caltrain, and public transportation—great for a vibrant City lifestyle. Truly one of a kind property!



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The Potrero Branch Library Offers More Than Books

BY BRITTANY VARGAS

Located at 1616 20th street, the Potrero Branch library offers books, films, and music – digital and compact discs – suitable for all ages and sweeping views of San Francisco. The facility also serves as a public commons, hosting events, classes, and access to free or low-cost museum passes.

“The library stands out as a totally free community space in the City. Everyone is welcome to come in and enjoy a safe space to learn and explore their own individual passions and interests. We don’t need an income verification, you don’t need to purchase anything, we are open for all, every day of the week.” said Genevieve Feldman, Branch Manager and Children’s Librarian.

A quiet respite from the concrete jungle, the floor to ceiling windows and Bay views make the Hill’s branch especially peaceful. Patrons come to work remotely using the free WiFi, gaze at the Golden Gate Bridge while flipping through a magazine, or bring their kids for one of the weekly children’s book readings.

The Branch participates in the city-wide Discover and Go program, which enables library card holders who are San Francisco residents to get free or low-cost tickets to museums, theatres, and other cultural attractions. Tickets are accessible through the library’s website.

Weekly classes and activities focus on the arts, social issues, activism and the environment. Events have included workshops on cooking and crafting, such as how to make Algerian desserts, homemade salsa, and Native American bracelets. Courses in how to use the Internet, word processing, and scholastic test preparation are regularly held.

Ongoing programs include activities for babies and toddlers, such as

Saturday Snacktivity – with healthy snacks provided by The Good Life Grocery – Puppydog Tales – a dog-child bonding activity where children read to dogs, sponsored by the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – and Movie and a Meal. Film nights are always family friendly; a number of child-free adults incorporate them into their routine.

“Here at Potrero many of our library patrons are regulars, so I’ve gotten to know them over time, learning more about each patron as an individual, and really making a connection with the community” said Feldman.

A meeting room is available for community members for free. Users include a women’s group, book clubs, school assemblies, and businesses.

Feldman has worked as a librarian for 11 years, been the branch manager for two years, and finds joy in “helping library patrons find that next book or film that will speak to them, or helping them find the book that gives answers to all their questions.”

Doreen Horstin, Children’s Services Librarian, has been at the branch for more than five years, and has worked with the San Francisco Public Library in excess of 12 years. She’s as passionate about reading as she is about her job. “Books are a window into other worlds and other points of view. Every time we read a book, our world gets bigger.” she said.

According to Horstin, “Potrero Hill is a community of readers”. In addition to the usual suspects – fiction and do-it-yourself primers – politics, travel, and language learning resources have been in heavy demand over the past year.

“Where else can you check out a museum pass, get the newest bestselling book, download the latest blockbuster directly to your tablet, learn a new craft, or practice early literacy skills with your toddler all in the same



Letters to the Editor

Editor,

Your March article (“Other Neighborhoods Less Enthusiastic About Adopting Green Benefit District Model”), which stated that the San Francisco Department of Public Works provided \$60,000 in funding for Inner Sunset Green Benefit District formation, is incorrect. An October 31, 2017 internal DPW memorandum and contract addendum shows that funding was raised to \$120,000. The document was obtained through a Sunshine Ordinance request. No doubt your reporter was misinformed as to the amount by DPW itself.

This is an illustrative problem. Misinformation and deception are endemic in San Francisco’s GBD program.

GBD elections don’t permit registered voters to vote, aren’t by secret ballot, aren’t one-person-one-vote, but allow out-of-area corporations, trusts, and even government itself to vote. The rationale for this approach is that the elections only impact its voters – property owners – because GBD property assessments are used solely for their benefit.

California benefit district law was intended for commercial districts. The original goal was to improve shoppers’ perception of a commercial area. San Francisco’s GBD law mutated state law to include residential properties, schools, and parks. Goals aren’t just about commerce; governance of all public space is fair game. Yet by state law, GBDs must maintain the fiction that their public space services and improvements only benefit property owners. Without this fiction they’re exposed for what they really are: an illegal tax on property owners that disenfranchises the electorate.

It gets worse. Mission High School is in the proposed Mission Dolores GBD. Assessing its property means redirecting educational funding to a privately controlled GBD corporation. Adding a new assessment to residential property makes housing in San Francisco even more expensive. Commercial property owners can pass the assessment to their tenants, who don’t have the right to vote.

Who is responsible if DPW and a GBD provide similar services? At minimum, DPW accountability is diminished, which is DPW’s aspiration in funding GBD formations.

Roger Hofmann
Inner Sunset

space and for free?” said Feldman.

The branch will host *The Potrero Hill Artists 61st Annual Artist’s Exhibition* from May 4 through July 26th, 2019. San Francisco’s oldest running

art exhibition, it’s previously featured photography, painting, sculpture, drawing, pottery, collage, fiberworks, and more.

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Potrero Hill Schools Engage Their Community

BY VERONICA DOLGINKO
PHOTOS: JENNIFER LONGAWAY

Photographs captured at the Maker Fest.

Last month, Starr King and Daniel Webster elementary schools, The New School San Francisco, and Live Oak School collaborated with PREFund, a nonprofit that encourages Potrero Hill families from a diversity of incomes to raise their children in the community, to produce Maker Fest, one of a number of individual and collective school events held this year.

The Maker Fest had “an incredible turn-out,” according to Emily Bobel Kilduff, head of The New School, a charter academy.

In May Daniel Webster will present its annual Taste of Potrero event, which raised more than \$150,000 in 2018 to fund educational services.

“It’s really become a neighborhood event,” said Webster Parent-Teacher Association president Julie Shumate. “And the word is getting out outside of the neighborhood too. The money it raises goes to really important stuff, like tutoring, social workers, lunch monitors. All of what we raise goes right back into the school. It’s great that we get the chance to do something like this, and that it’s enjoyed by everyone in the community, whether they’re part of the school or not.”

“Our school had one of the longest waitlists this year compared to other elementary schools in the District,” Shumate continued. “Word is getting out that we’ve got some good mojo going on. We have a really different mix of ethnicities, cultures, different kind of



“Nerdy Derby,” organized The New School parents.



A parent-volunteer from Daniel Webster working with a student.

background. It’s really a melting pot.”

“Every year we’re adding a new grade,” said Kilduff. “We’re building a new curriculum, expanding the community.”

Kilduff wants her school, which is in its fifth year, to model different ways of approaching education, forward-thinking methods that could be adopted by traditional public schools.

“Very few schools...have this kind of progressive curriculum,” she said. “We established ourselves as a laboratory for learning. We’re continuing our work with the Exploratorium. We work with them to build our curriculum. We’ve added more kids this year to our student body. We submitted a petition for our charter renewal...and we’re



Prototyping station.

MAKER FEST continues on page 18



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Musician Daniel Berkman Brings a Taste of West Africa to Potrero Hill

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Potrero Hill resident and musician, Daniel Berkman, composes rhythmic, resonant songs for a multitude of instruments, which he regularly performs at Farley's. His primary instrument is the kora, a 21-stringed West African harp-lute the size of a cello. Berkman also plays guitar, keyboards and synthesizers, string instruments – cello, viola da gamba, and ukulele – vintage contraptions, like the marxophone and tremolo, and electronic and virtual instruments, including the handsonic, a digital hand drum that can replicate the sound of other instruments. He recently took up the ondes martenot, an electronic keyboard invented in the late 1920s.

Berkman, originally from Los Angeles, moved to the Hill in 2002. Prior to that, he'd couch-surfed during the first dot-com boom and lived in San Rafael for two years.

"When I graduated from high school, I went east to the Hartt School of Music, the performing arts conservatory of the University of Hartford in Connecticut. Before I could finish my degree, I dropped out and headed west. At first, I came back to Los Angeles, but then I moved north. I wanted to be in the City where everything was happening. In the late 1990s, I started out as a gigging drummer for rock, blues, jazz and folk bands," said Berkman.

Connecting with dance companies

helped Berkman gain a footing in the City. "One of the principle dancers with Oberlin Dance Collective helped me find the apartment in the City I have today. I also began writing ballets around this time. I have written many scores over the past 20 years. I have worked with many dance companies, including ODC, Post:Ballet, San Francisco Dance Center and San Francisco Ballet's Dance in Schools and Communities program. With DISC, I taught music concepts in elementary schools, some in Hunters Point," said Berkman.

In addition, Berkman teaches looping with SF Jazz, a performance and education nonprofit organization. "Looping involves repeating and embellishing sections of sound. I also make music using iOS devices, iPhones and iPads," said Berkman.

Berkman also composes scores for films. He did soundtracks for *Unspoken*, a 2016 picture by the Dance Theatre of San Francisco; and *Earth Portal*, a planetarium show that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1962 World's Fair. In addition, he records music for his own albums and as part of collaborations with other artists.

Berkman first became entranced with the kora while watching a performance at Wesleyan University. "I studied marimba (a large percussion instrument) in high school and college. Around 1988, I started collecting CDs of world music, mostly from India, Indonesia, Japan and West Africa. It

hit me how incredible the kora was. Then I went to see a kora player live. It really moved me, to hear an actual kora being played by a true master," said Berkman.

A little while after that, Berkman traveled to Berklee College of Music, where his then-girlfriend had a flute audition. "I was down in the lobby and I saw a flyer about a kora for sale and kora lessons. But I didn't buy a kora until I moved to San Francisco a couple of years later. In the City, I started taking lessons from Alan Perlman, a kora player and renowned luthier in the Outer Sunset," said Berkman.

In 2002, Berkman traveled to Senegal, Gambia, and Mali with the Kouyate Twins. Assane and Oussey-nou Kouyate are Senegalese singers and dancers who are descended from griots, African storytellers. While on tour, Berkman purchased three koras and a djembe drum. Today, he owns ten koras and is proficient in a variety of traditional styles.

Berkman comes from a musical family. "My grandfather, Samuel Berkman, was one of the three founders of the Hartt School. My grandmother, Irene Kahn-Berkman, was one of my grandfather's students. My father, John Berkman, was a pianist, violinist, and composer who graduated from the Hartt School. He moved to New York, pawned his violin and began working as an assistant conductor and pianist on Broadway. One of the shows in which he was involved was *Cabaret*. My mother, Lynn Chaplin-Noe, was a dancer and actress who was part of the original cast of *Cabaret*. I'm a *Cabaret* baby," said Berkman.

In 2017, Berkman returned to the Hartt School to celebrate his grandparents' induction into the school's hall of fame. "I met with the former dean and talked with him about all the music I've recorded and the instruments I've learned to play. He invited me to take 10 more units of classes. The faculty will also review my albums to see if I can

make up 40 credits through portfolio work. I am now taking classes online with the hope of graduating in 2020, when I turn 50," said Berkman.

According to Robert Dekkers, artistic director of Post:Ballet, Berkman's music has a natural energy and rhythm that propels movement. "No piece sounds the same. He and I start working together by exploring the concept behind the piece. We'll videotape the movement first, and then he'll score the choreography. I'll take that music and play with it. It's sort of this back and forth until we lock in the structure and instrumentation," said Dekkers.

Richard Trapani, an electronic musician and member of LoveTech, a Bay Area electronic music collective in which Berkman participates, said, "Daniel is one of the most jaw-dropping amazing performers we've ever featured. He truly engages the audience. Daniel's musical improvisation uncovers great beauty in every moment. The way it pulls you in has a subtlety and depth of expression that has taken a lifetime of musical dedication to achieve."

Chris Hillyard, owner of Farley's, said Berkman has been regularly playing at the coffee house since before he took over the business. "He's part of the neighborhood, the community. People know him there. He creates a unique experience. No one else is playing the kora, certainly not in a casual setting. I also know the employees like that he's a genuine, personable person," said Hillyard.

Berkman, who occasionally teaches kora lessons in his home studio, encourages beginning musicians to regularly compose and practice. "Sometimes, when my spirits are low, I play just to cheer myself up. I get fired up with the electronics. I'll arrange two speakers on either side of me to immerse myself and others in a psychedelic sound world," said Berkman.

Berkman said experimentation leads to success, as a performer, a teacher, or both. "It's good to just jump in and fall flat on your face. Over time, I've become more able to teach what I know, what I learned through experience," said Berkman.



MELINDA LEE

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- IPO's** – What will this new influx of cash mean to our neighborhood?
- Rent vs Own** – What will buyers do? Which is better?
- Investment** – Is my property becoming a liability?
- Market Correction** – Will properties on the Hill be affected?

Conversations among Buyers, Sellers and Agents swirl around these topics. It all seems new and urgent – but we were asking the very same questions 3..5..10 years ago. When HASN'T there been new money coming into this town?

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DoReMi is the Sound of Art in Dogpatch, Potrero Hill



Left and right: The work and studio of artist Brion Nuda Rosch.

PHOTOS: Courtesy of Brion Nuda Rosch

BY BETTINA COHEN

It's a Saturday afternoon in late February. Art lovers and creatives are arriving for a pair of exhibit openings in the adjacent art galleries of Catharine Clark and Brian Gross, at 248 Utah Street. The spacious rooms rapidly fill with perhaps 100 guests sipping wine and conversing in small groups that mix, disperse and regroup. Among the crowd are couples with their children, the youngest in strollers, to celebrate art and the locals who produce it.

The Catharine Clark Gallery was showing works by Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth Hope. The couple live nearby, in the Mission District. Throughout their careers, the Hopes have created work that focuses on the environment and conservation, the dissemination of information through mass media, and the relationship between narrative and spirituality. The recent showing, themed *An Exhaustive Study of Power*, imagined an immersive space that employs the aesthetics of a richly appointed apartment overlooking a world on the brink of societal collapse. In one room, Laurel's "Manifest Destiny," a study of European starlings in vitreous china, glazes, wood, and gold leaf, explored invasive species' impact on habitat and native populations.

Artists have lived and worked in Potrero Hill and Dogpatch for decades. But after several art galleries relocated to the neighborhoods from tonier Downtown and South-of-Market spaces in 2013, a newfound "awareness of the predicament for creatives in the area" inspired Clark to organize the informally recognized DoReMi Arts District, reflecting the Dogpatch,

Potrero and Mission District neighborhoods the area encompasses. Steeply increasing rents, a byproduct of the latest technology boom, have forced many departures from San Francisco. The lower fees charged in blocks zoned as Production, Distribution and Repair, home to former warehouses that readily adapt to spacious artist studios, make these communities a stronghold for the imaginative set.

"It's never been easy for artists and creatives in general," Clark said. DoReMi "has given us hope. We're in it together and there's some effort to solve the problem."

The district's proximity to the San Francisco Design Center, with its showrooms and businesses dedicated to remodeling, designing and decorating well-appointed homes, is a bonus. Other Utah Street enterprises include the Hosfelt Gallery, owned by Todd Hosfelt, and Daltile Design Studio, which specializes in high-end floor tiles.

"Serious collectors buy first and figure out where it will go later, but others are looking to balance design with art, so this is a convenience," Brian Gross said. "I love being in this District. I was Downtown for 30 years. We were all squeezed into office buildings. Here, we have space and natural light and parking. We don't get the foot traffic that we would Downtown, but we get a lot of destination traffic. It's a friendlier area than Downtown. It's a residential area that's more accessible to customers who want to buy art for their homes."

Until April 6 the Brian Gross Gallery is showing *Eden In Iraq*, a solo exhibition of eight new photographic

works by Santa Fe artist Meridel Rubenstein that explore themes of destruction and renewal through the social, political, and environmental history of Southern Iraq, believed to be the location of the Biblical Eden on Earth.

"Galleries have always benefitted from being close together," said Clark. "Everyone shows different artists. Yes, there's competition, but it's more about the conversation than the competition."

A pocket-sized pamphlet with a map identifies 54 galleries and design studios in DoReMi, with several galleries clustered around Utah and Minnesota streets. In between, the Wattis Institute of the Arts, part of the California College of the Arts, is located at 360 Kansas Street. The nearby Center for the Book, at 375 Rhode Island Street, conducts 400 workshops

annually in letterpress printing, calligraphy and bookbinding, while displaying traditional and experimental book forms and handcrafted greeting cards in classic fonts. Visitors can see ornate letterpresses that date back to the late-1800s.

The Minnesota Street Project opened in 2016. Founded by angel investors, Andy and Deborah Rappaport, themselves collectors of fine art, MSP offers economical warehouse spaces for art galleries, artists and related nonprofits. The galleries at 1275 Minnesota and 1150 25th streets are free and open to the public during regular business hours. The Artist Studio Program at 1240 Minnesota Street is tenants-only.

Committed to helping galler-

DO RE MI continues on page 10

A QUARTERLY UPDATE
SPONSORED BY BRIDGE HOUSING

VOLUME 97 • APRIL 2019

REBUILD
POTRERO

First Phase Housing Nears Completion!



The first phase of the HOPE SF REBUILD Potrero project — a partnership with BRIDGE Housing, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), and the San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) — is nearing completion! Occupancy of the 72-unit 100% affordable housing building located at 1101 Connecticut Street is expected in mid-April 2019 with landscaping and street enhancement completed by the end of May 2019. BRIDGE is excited to continue working with the community towards construction of Phase II housing and community improvements starting later this year.

To learn more about REBUILD Potrero, a HOPE SF initiative, please visit our website, email us, or attend a Community Building Group Meeting which is held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at Daniel Webster Elementary School (465 Missouri Street). The next meeting will be on April 16th.

For more information: website: rebuildpotrero.com, e-mail potrero@bridgehousing.com

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OBITUARY

BY MARC PASSEN

Adios, my Shana Rivka (Beautiful Ruth).

Shana Rivka was a pet name for Ruth Passen used by her devoted and adoring brothers. Ruth was a first-generation Californian, born in San Francisco to Morris and Nettie Elkind, who emigrated from Russia and Poland to escape discrimination against Jews. Ruth was the baby sister to her older brothers, Sam and Charles (Chuck). She was predeceased by Sam. Chuck resides in Southern California.

Ruth grew up in the Fillmore District when the neighborhood was a mix of Jewish, African- and Japanese-American families. She gained an appreciation of diverse cultures through the community's natural integration. "My dad's philosophy was a good one," she once said. "He felt that as a Jew you should know about discrimination and not discriminate against others." Ruth attended John Swett Junior and Lowell high schools.

Ruth became politically active at a young age. While attending classes at San Francisco State University she joined a left-wing student group, where she met World War II veteran, Joe Passen, who passed away in 1992. They married in 1947, shortly after Sam wedded Betty Glass and right before Chuck married Rockie (Rokama) Kramer. Rockie fondly recalls a time when Ruth took her new sister-in-law shopping at a discount dented can store. Rockie was hooked, and became a lifetime thrifty shopper! A son, Marc, was born in 1950. A second baby, Nicky, was born in 1951 and predeceased Ruth in 1963.

In the early 1950s, Ruth's passion for progressive politics led her to speak out against the McCarthy era of hate and divisiveness.

After living in Los Angeles for seven years, Ruth missed her beloved San Francisco. She and Joe found a home on Potrero Hill and moved back in 1965. During the turbulent 1960s, Ruth became active in the anti-Vietnam War movement, and joined the Women's Peace movement. In the 1970s, Ruth supported workers' rights during the grape boycott led by United Farm Workers president Cesar Chavez.

During this period, Ruth got involved with an upstart neighborhood newspaper, *Hills & Dales*, which later changed its name to *The Potrero View*. Ruth became the editor of the free



Ruth Passen
June 26, 1926 — February 22, 2019

PHOTO: Lester Zeidman

monthly paper, holding that position for more than three decades. She recruited people to volunteer, write, and proof-read stories. The publication featured investigative reports on development plans, stories about crime, mom and pop businesses, and even a gossip column, "The Nose Knows." Friends, neighbors, acquaintances, even a 49er football player would find their name under the "Birthdays" column. Ruth retired from the *View* in 2008, turning the reins over to Steven Moss.

In the late 1970s, Enola Maxwell, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe) director, hired Ruth to become the Nabe's office manager. It turned into a wonderful collaboration and friendship between two dynamic women.

Over the years, Ruth and Joe were strong supporters of liberal-progressive Democratic candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives. They hosted many fundraising events for Phillip Burton, Sala Burton and Nancy Pelosi. In the late-1980s, Ruth and Joe helped Art Agnos get elected mayor of San Francisco. When Pelosi became the first woman Speaker of the House, Ruth received a personal invitation to attend the swearing-in event in Washington, D.C.

When Ruth took a break from trying to save the world, she loved to listen to jazz, opera, classical music, and Broadway musicals. Ruth and her "bosom buddy", Denise Kessler, religiously attend the annual Monterey Jazz Festival in the 1950s and 1960s. They loved jazz so much that they booked passage on a jazz cruise to the Bahamas, featuring the Count Basie band! Ruth and Joe were season ticketholders of the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco 49ers. Ruth loved to travel, taking annual summer trips to Camp Mather, near Yosemite National Park, visiting New York City, London, and Paris. When Marc started playing rugby football, Ruth became not only a big fan, but a fantastic sideline photographer of the sport.

Ruth had a way of connecting with people. Her easygoing style, wisdom, and acceptance created a space for others to share things with her that they weren't comfortable revealing to anyone else.

Ruth adored her two granddaughters, Natalie and Teresa. When the girls were little, she'd take them to Sally's, Goat Hill Pizza, and the Daily Scoop, where she'd proudly show them off. At Ruth's Rhode Island Street apartment, the girls would get her to smile and

laugh, draping themselves with her silk scarves and posing as models. As the girls got older, Ruth would take them on marches against the Iraq War and on Martin Luther King Day.

She had a "forever young" persona that was never more evident than how she related to young people. Whether it was her granddaughters, nieces or nephews, or the Black and Brown kids at the Nabe, this little, grey-haired White lady had such an impact that those who knew her would approach years later to thank her for just listening and being direct and honest.

Over her lifetime, Ruth consistently demonstrated compassion and devotion to the causes of freedom, peace, and equality. She deservedly received the great love and respect by all who were fortunate to have known her. She will remain in our hearts forever.

Ruth is survived by Marc and his wife, Dianne, granddaughters Natalie Carsten and Teresa Sollom, Chuck Elkind and his wife, Rokama Elkind, and many nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a tribute and memorial to Ruth on May 4, 2 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association.



Circa 1984; Denise Kessler and Ruth Passen flanking trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie.



Ruth Passen with Sala Burton and Enola Maxwell.

PHOTO: Bob Hayes



View staff in 1979. Vern Huffman holds up a copy of the paper; Ruth Passen sits holding the paper; Bob Hayes, the View's photographer for many years, back row, far right; Vas Arnautoff, stalwart staff member for more than 20 years, back row center.



A neighborhood block party in 1987. Ruth Passen in front of Jimmy Herman, longtime Hill resident and International Longshore and Warehouse Union president. On Jimmy's left is community worker Betty Brooks; next to her is former mayor Art Agnos, a Connecticut Street resident.



View staff, circa 1997. Left to right: Abigail Johnston, Denise Kessler, Judy Baston, Winifred Mann, Ruth Passen, Lester Zeidman, Bernie Gershater, Vas Arnautoff, and Lisa Allman.

Aunt Ruth

BY RISA NYE

Aunt Ruth used to chide me when I complained about being exhausted after chasing my young children around.

"In my day," she said, "we'd put the kids to bed, and then figure out how to save the world!"

Saving the world meant throwing herself into the fray. She'd hoist a sign, march and demonstrate in the streets; for civil rights, social justice, against the bomb, the war, the next war, and the next. She kept her vast collection of politically-inspired buttons pinned to a large piece of felt, ready to stick on her hat or jacket as she headed off to the next rally or picket line: We Shall Overcome. Make Love, Not War. Another Mother for Peace.

I loved the time we spent together during my summer visits to my aunt and uncle's crowded Los Angeles apartment. During these critical pre-teen years, Aunt Ruth matter-of-factly shared some important tips. She showed me how to apply three shades of lipstick, how to shave my legs without nicking divots into my shins, and how to have fun while shopping, things my mother hadn't taught me.

A constant parade of unemployed writers, between-gig actors, labor organizers, and fellow progressives showed up at the L.A. apartment, ar-

guing politics over red wine and plates of pasta long into the night. Hugs and handshakes always followed the loud voices and f-bombs at evening's end. Things were not like that at my house.

When her family moved back home to San Francisco, my aunt began contributing articles and photographs to her neighborhood newspaper. She subsequently took on the roles of editor and publisher of *The Potrero View*, a three-decades-long labor of love. At the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House she helped organize afterschool programs, classes for adults, and events that celebrated the scrappy diversity of the "Nabe."

At an event honoring my aunt for her work, San Francisco's mayor read a proclamation loaded with "whereases," and declared a day in her honor. When he finished speaking, my father leaned toward me and pointed proudly at his "baby" sister. "Look at her; she's the richest person in this room." And I knew what he meant.

My aunt encouraged me to write, publishing my essays in her paper; my first bylines. Writing was her passion. She talked about composing a memoir, but never started it. "I'm not a writer like you," she told me once. "You do it for both of us."

Ruth never pandered to anyone. You could always count on her to be outspoken, feisty, honest, but kind, and a champion of the underdog. She would confront racism or social injustice wherever she found it, no matter who

the guilty party might be. And she mastered the art of being cool without even trying.

When I went back to graduate school at age 58, I hoped I could model myself after Ruth. She was always able to engage effortlessly with everyone: young and old, well-off and well-connected, or down-on-their luck. I often asked myself: "what would Ruth do?" And I knew that she'd act like it was no big deal to be sitting in workshop with students a few decades younger. I could

imagine her saying, "Get over yourself and do the work you came to do."

In her 80's, Ruth slipped into the foggy world of dementia. It's not the world she tried to save so many years ago, but it was the world she lived in until her death. The sparkle was still in her eyes. At least, that's what I wanted to see. And I told myself that she may not recognize me anymore, but she knew I was someone who always loved her.



PHOTO: Abigail Johnston



Painting by Sofia Carmi. "Red Rhapsody". Oil on canvas. Image: Courtesy of Sofia Carmi

DO RE MI from page 7

ists and artists sustain themselves through sales, MSP is also dedicated to educating the public through open, accessible engagement with exhibitions and programming. The facility houses 17 gallery spaces in addition to the studio program. Selection of 35 artists from 300 who applied for MSP studios was in part based on their willingness to organize, something many artists find challenging, as their creative lives demand the lion's share of their time and energy.

"This was about confirming a long-term relationship. We considered the contributions the artists were making outside of their art, within the art community. We filled it with individuals



Paintings by Suzy Barnard. Left: "Rise & Shine". 2018, oil on wood. Right: "Ship to Shore". 2018, oil on wood.

who are natural organizers," said Brion Nuda Rosch, of Minnesota Street Project, who wears several hats. In addition to his role as studio program director, Rosch is a painter, sculptor, and art teacher. He works with schools and takes young students into the studio to show them how to work with paints and clay.

"It's more than sharing a studio practice with children," Rosch noted. "Sharing a community of working artists is what will inspire them in the future. Can you imagine being shown a building filled with working artists at a young age? It solidifies the importance of art in our lives. Space has been claimed and there is support for artists to work. Showing that to youth today will ensure they understand later in life that supporting the arts is important. It isn't necessarily important for everyone to grow up to be an artist. What's important is that people grow up to understand art. When people understand art that they will support the art community, buying art, investing

in the community as philanthropists."

In its 50th anniversary season, the San Francisco Arts Education Project explores the relationship between artist-mentor and student-artist in *Dialogues 2019: Artist Mentors & Their Students*. Running through May 25 at 1275 Minnesota Street, the exhibition features work by older and younger artists, the latter of whom are public elementary school students. It provokes the questions: who inspires whom? Is resonance reciprocal?

"SFArtsEd is a vital part of Minnesota Street Project's community of contemporary galleries and arts organizations," said Julie Casemore, MSP director. "Their mission of education and mentorship contributes significantly to one of Minnesota Street Project's goals, to open the doors wide to the greater community, including young people."

At DoReMi's easternmost edge is the Noonan Building, located at Pier 70, which has housed a variety of artists for 40 years, including Frank Lobdell, one of the pioneers of Bay Area abstract expressionism. The large, wood framed

structure, built in 1941, is scheduled to be torn down to make way for a new development by Brookfield Properties, the successor to Forest City.

Initially overlooked in Pier 70's development plans, the Noonan artists banded together to advocate to be included in the future complex. As a result, Brookfield Properties' will work with a nonprofit arts organization – possibly the Community Arts Stabilization Trust – to build, own and operate a new waterfront arts facility that'll be home to the Noonan artists currently onsite. Base rent for the Noonan artists will be held at low rates. Approved project zoning allows for a building of up to 50 feet tall. The new three-level edifice may include a gallery open to the public, as well as an elevator, a feature that's absent from the Noonan Building.

Pier 70's atmospheric location itself is inspirational, a place where a post-industrial landscape gives way to Bay views of maritime cargo ships passing by.

DO RE ME continues on page 17



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- **MAKE IT SHINE**—There is nothing more important than ensuring your home is clean.
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COMMUNITY | APRIL



Taste of Potrero will take place on May 2, 2019.

PHOTO: Ed Anderson (edandersonphoto.com)

Now through 4/7
Flowers: Macy's Flower Show
 Macy's Union Square location is transformed into a space-inspired floral fantasy world during the 73rd annual Macy's Flower Show, a celebration of flowers, food, art and music. "Journey to Paradisios" transports visitors into a multi-dimensional world of space, adventure, and discovery through florals and eccentrically landscaped gardens. Free. More information and store hours: <https://mcys.co/2TG7pIT>

Throughout April
Music: Jazz @ The Atlas
 Since 2013, The Atlas Café has been presenting Jazz@The Atlas, featuring new and unheard local bands. Of the dozens of MP3s received each month,

Curator David Kaye picks groups based solely on quality. The Atlas serves soups, sandwiches, and salads, along with local microbrew beers, kombucha, and wines. Shows run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, with no cover charge. Atlas Café, 3049 20th Street. More information, and schedule of events: <https://bit.ly/2JAVbgM>

2 tues

Music: Christine Onyung
 Live music by Christine Onyung, a singer-songwriter who performs covers and originals. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

3 wed

Books: Wednesday Steps Sales
 San Francisco Public Library hosts weekly Wednesday Steps Sales. All books and media are \$1 or less each; proceeds benefit the Library. Every Wednesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street. Steps Sales are canceled in the event of rain. More information: <https://bit.ly/2H9Zi1v>

5 fri

Comedy: MC Sergio Novoa
 Standup comedy by MC Sergio Novoa. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

6 sat

Family: Make Art Family Day
 Celebrate the Museum of Craft and Design's 15th birthday. Bring the whole family to Make Art Family Day; enjoy such activities as the opportunity to win your own birthday party at MCD. There'll be spin art and ice cream, paper lantern crafts, wearable designs and more! All ages welcome. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids 12 and under and museum members: free. Adults: \$8. Students and seniors: \$6. Museum of Craft and Design, 2569 Third Street. More information: <https://bit.ly/2U08RH2>

Art: de Young Museum Free Saturdays
 Every Saturday, the de Young offers free general admission to the permanent galleries to San Francisco residents. Saturdays feature engaging art experiences for the entire family, including art-making, gallery guides, and tours with discussions and sketching in the permanent galleries. Special exhibit admission isn't included nor discounted and is ticketed at full price. 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Free. de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park. More information: <https://bit.ly/2JAYaWw>

8 mon

Gardening: Macy's Flower Show Post-Show Plant Sale
 Wonder where the blooms go when the Flower Show ends? Select plants and flowers from Macy's 73rd Annual Flower Show will be available

for sale following the show. All proceeds benefit the Delancey Street Foundation, the country's largest self-help residential organization for people who are rebuilding their lives. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Pier 30 to 32, 599 Embarcadero. More information: <https://bit.ly/2HPMHZN>

10 wed

Music: GT2+1
 GT2+1 play 20th century musci: Beatles, Eagles, Simon & Garfunkel, Clapton, Dylan, Van Morrison, featuring the song stylings of Ms. Alyssa Cox. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

11 thur

Music: Ocean Shore Railroad
 Live music by Ocean Shore Railroad, performing originals and select covers from the 1960's to the present. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

12 fri

Family: SF Giants Post-Game Fireworks
 As soon as the San Francisco Giants hopefully defeat the Colorado Rockies at AT&T Park, enjoy a firework display over the stadium, at approximately 10:15 p.m. A game ticket is needed to enter the arena; good free viewing locations located outside the ballpark at Willie Mays Plaza, the Third Street Bridge, or across McCovey Cove. Free. AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza. For more information: <https://atmlb.com/2jAZ9cM>

13 sat

Music: Frances Ancheta
 Live music by Frances Ancheta, a singer-songwriter with pop, folk, indie rock, new wave, and world/tropical influences. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

14 sun

Food: National Grilled Cheese Day
 Celebrate National Grilled Cheese Day with a bevy of food trucks serving their unique versions of the sandwiches. Devour your favorite cheesy classic in all its toasty glory

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PROPERTY OWNERS: Turn In Your Required ABE Form TODAY!

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) is reminding property owners to comply with the Accessible Business Entrance (ABE) program, which requires existing buildings with a place of "public accommodation" to have all primary entrances from the public way accessible for people with disabilities. If you own commercial storefront(s), this Program applies to you.

TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP!

To comply, property owners are required to submit one of the following: Pre-Screening, Waiver or Category Checklist Compliance form to DBI.

To read about the Program's requirements and your next steps, visit sfdbi.org/businessentrance.

Tier	Category Description	Submit form or compliance checklist and specify compliance option
1	In Compliance	1/1/19
2	No Steps but barriers	1/1/19
3	One Step with other barriers	6/1/19
4	1+ Steps with other barriers	12/1/19

alongside craft brews and live music from The Stu Tails. Admission \$5 to \$36. 12 to 5 p.m. SoMa StrEat Food Park, 428 11th Street. More information and to purchase tickets: <https://bit.ly/2HBRplh>

17 wed

Music: Soul Delights
Live music by Soul Delights. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

18 thur

Music: James Everett
Live music by James Everett, rhythm and blues, jazz and pop singer and performer. Free. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

20 sat

Music: Paula O'Rourke and Carolos Mendoza
Performing Catalan and Venezuelan songs. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

Earth Day: Earth Day San Francisco
Celebrate Earth Day's 49th year in San Francisco's sunny Mission District. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Green New Deal." Talks, demonstrations, and workshops offered throughout the day, with topics including climate change, recycling, and the intersection of politics, technology, and the environment. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Valencia Street, between 19th and 20th streets. More information: <https://bit.ly/2EMp4VR>

21 sun

Gardening: Make Your Own Terrarium
Celebrate Earth Day by making your own terrarium! Supplies will be provided. Space is limited to 15. This is an adult and teen program. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Bayview Linda Brooks-Burton Library, 5075 Third Street. More information and to register call 415.355.5757 or email to yuet.ly@sfppl.org.

4/26 Friday to 5/5 Sunday Dance: Bay Area Dance Week
This annual 10-day festival features hundreds of free events throughout the Bay Area. Take dance classes and watch performances in a wide range of styles, including Argentine tango, classical Indian, jazz, hip hop, ballet, traditional hula, fire dance, Samba, modern, Chinese classical, belly dance, aerial dance, West African, contact improvisation, and more. Free. For a complete schedule and locations of events: <https://bit.ly/2U9urrF>

27 sun

Music: Marc Maynon and the CD Onofrio
Performing folk music. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

4/27 Saturday and 4/28 Sunday Art: Vintage Paper Fair
The Vintage Paper Fair features one of the West Coast's largest selection of postcards, trade cards, stereoviews, photography, labels, brochures, sports memorabilia, and all manner of curious, beautiful and interesting old paper. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199

Ninth Avenue. More information: <https://bit.ly/2YfqdxU>

Happening in May 2019:

2 thur

Community: Taste of Potrero
Now in its ninth year, Taste of Potrero is a premier celebration of great food and drink. Enjoy unlimited bites crafted by the City's best restaurants and bars. All profits benefit Daniel Webster Elementary School, which continues to suffer from budget shortfalls. Funds raised help ensure that all of Webster's students, including the more half with serious economic needs, have access to the instruction, basic tools, services and materials necessary to receive the high-quality education they deserve. 7 to 10 p.m. \$100. to \$250. The Midway, 900 Marin Street. More information and to purchase tickets: <https://bit.ly/2H1xr5P>

5/4 Saturday to 5/5 Sunday Art: Hunters Point Shipyard Artists Spring Open Studios
More than 120 artists located on San Francisco's landmark naval shipyard invite you to their Spring Open Studios for a weekend of art buying and browsing, great food from neighborhood providers and family fun. This unique tradition, celebrating its 30th year, offers a chance to browse a diverse mix of art, interact directly with creators in

their workspaces, and buy art directly from the artists. Free. 451 Galvez Avenue. More information: <https://bit.ly/2OnSjBw>

5 sun

Family: Sunday Streets: Bayview/Dogpatch
Sunday Streets is San Francisco's official block party, a roving neighborhood celebration and five-hour gathering where streets are closed to vehicles; pedestrians, roller skaters, bicyclists, and yogis take over for an afternoon. Expect activities like treasure hunts, dance performances, hula hooping, dodgeball games, yoga classes, bubble parties, and tons more fun stuff. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. More information: <https://bit.ly/2UTJ6V8>

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Saturday 4/27 9 a.m. to noon
Progress Dog Run (near Iowa & 25th)
Come garden, meet neighbors, and improve our parks. Wear sturdy shoes, we'll supply the rest..

First Saturdays in Dogpatch: A neighborhood-wide event held monthly, rain or shine

- Explore neighborhood shops 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Enjoy great food and drink 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Discover maker market at Center Hardware and 1234 Indiana Street, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Be inspired at gallery openings at Minnesota Street Project, 6 to 8 p.m.
- See all the details at LoveDogpatch.com.

Bay Area makers, small businesses and food trucks:
Pop-up in Dogpatch the first Saturday of every month. Find out more at <https://bit.ly/2Lo5ekM>.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association
Be in the know. Meet your neighbors. Make the Potrero a better place. Monthly meeting: last Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. 953 De Haro @ Southern Heights.

Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc

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San Francisco's eastern waterfront is anchored in history as a seaport; it's fitting that three weathered iron nautical anchors will decorate the walkways of the future Bayfront Park. Donated by the Port of San Francisco to the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), the anchors will be preserved as historical relics of the area's maritime industrial past. Bayfront Park is located on land held in trust for the State by the Port, but the Park itself – including the anchors – will be part of the Mission Bay Parks system, operated and maintained by OCII. Bayfront Park is just south of the 16th Street intersection, along the Bay side of Terry Francois Boulevard, immediately adjacent to Agua Vista Park, which the Port maintains. The largest of the three anchors is estimated to weigh between 12,000 to 15,000 pounds, and appears to have come off a large cargo ship. The two smaller anchors may weigh between 4,000 to 6,000 pounds each, and were probably taken from military boats. At some point those vessels underwent repairs at the Pier 70 dry dock and ship repair yard. The anchors eventually ended up in a Port-owned warehouse. Work on Bayfront Park is expected to begin this spring and be completed by spring 2020. PHOTO: Bettina Cohen

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OBITUARIES

**John H. Anderson**

March 22, 1930 – March 12, 2019

BY CAROLYN GRAY ANDERSON

Little did John Hawkins Anderson know that when he left rural Arkansas in the mid-1950s he wouldn't go back.

John came to the Golden State with his experience of the world — and people — newly expanded by U.S. Air Force service in southern Germany. Promised a summer gig in a Balboa Island restaurant that served steaks to vacationers and celebrities, John arrived in California to find the sand warm, the girls suntanned, and he could eat like a king. It suddenly made sense to finish his undergraduate degree on the Pacific Rim. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Long Beach State College, as California State University, Long Beach was called when it was barely five years old. In 1958, he proudly earned a Master of City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

As a Bay Area urban planner for some three decades, he worked in San Francisco City Hall under Mayors Shelley, Alioto, Moscone, and Feinstein in the 1960s and 1970s. In the early 1980s he directed the Emeryville Redevelopment Agency, succeeding Mark Buell, who had recruited him as deputy there and in Alioto's office. His first colleagues included graphic artist William Reid, John's friend for decades and, in his 90s, still a Potrero Hill denizen.

Anyone who was lucky enough to accompany John on long urban walks across the City received an education in its history and development. He could point to buildings, public squares, and the sidewalks under your feet to identify details he'd had a hand in planning or designing; like the pattern of pavement at Embarcadero Center that features in Coppola's *The Conversation* practically as a character.

In 1969, he scraped together a down payment on an 1897 Potrero Hill Victorian that may have originated as a catalogue "kit" house. Newly divorced, John took a sledge hammer to interior walls and turned his home into a bachelor pad. For years the house sat under the grim asbestos shingling that covered its original façade. In the 1970s, John stripped the unfortunate cladding and meticulously researched the gingerbread patterns traceable underneath it, commissioning new redwood trim and scalloped shingles appropriate to the structure's vintage.



He's remembered by long-time neighbors and newcomers alike as handy with tools and generous with Santa Rosa plums and Eureka lemons, plucked from trees dating to the 1930s. Any number of young Hill renters used his sun-soaked backyard to plant their food and flowers.

John launched early street tree planting initiatives in the neighborhood, late in life revering those that matured and mourning many that had to be replaced, including his own. He is best remembered for spearheading a campaign to sink the utility distribution lines in several Hill blocks, a project that took nearly two decades to complete. UGD Number 331 was formalized in 1992; it was the last such effort to be approved under an agreement between the City and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to fund undergrounding projects. Neighbors will remember the 2008 celebration to "reclaim the sky" (*Potrero View*, June 2008) and liberate world-famous Bay views from a tangle of power lines.

He loved the sculptural aesthetic of the old piers rotting in Mission Bay. For John, urban progress sometimes took the form of unmitigated decay alongside new construction and careful preservation of the built environment. John had a creative mind and artistic eye that enabled him to see in cast-off objects — like driftwood, rusted metal scraps, Styrofoam packaging or architectural salvage — new and beautiful forms. He fashioned candle sticks from plumbing parts and built an elegant outdoor tower from wire and scrap wood. He amassed a collection of interesting beach stones and other rocks he piled into berms in his



SEAN PAUL FISHER passed away peacefully on March 5, just a few days after his 67th birthday. He was the third oldest of nine children born to Paul and Ruth Fisher, formerly of Bowie, Maryland. Sean moved to San Francisco when he was barely 20, where he surrounded himself with a great network of friends, who become family. In 1976 he became Goat Hill Pizza's second employee. He introduced the restaurant to Hilda the Goat, who lived in the original building's backyard, became the pizzeria's mascot, and ultimately the icon for Goat Hill's brand. Originally the pizza parlor was closed on Mondays, until Sean invented Monday 'all you can eat' night. For many years, Sean lived on a houseboat on Mission Creek; he moved to Laguna Honda Nursing and Rehabilitation Center eight years ago, due to early onset Alzheimer's. Sean was quick to smile and share a kind word or funny comment. He was positive, fun-loving and had a way of making each person he encountered feel special. He had a great sense of humor and a contagious laugh. Sean is survived by his partner, David Scott, and longtime friend, Philip DeAndrade, both of the Bay Area; sisters Kathy Bishop, Ann Chapman, Margaret Fisher, Megan Grogard (Kathleen Beraut), Trish Liebe (John Liebe), brother Matt, and several nieces and nephews, all of Maryland.

garden. He was a skilled cabinet maker who custom-built shelving and other furniture for his house and others', as a gift or favor.

John passed away on March 12, 2019, 10 days before his 89th birthday. He was at peace and well cared for by his children and the hospice staff in the VA of San Francisco's Community Living Center at Ft. Miley, on the western edge of the City whose stunning beauty and variety impressed him anew for 65 years. Friends and neighbors visited him regularly at that splendid location.

John was happiest when he could sit by the water, whether the Bay at

sunrise, Pescadero at low tide, Liman-tour Beach at Point Reyes in the fog of summer, or Rodeo Beach on Fourth of July. Fittingly, he lived his last months near the Pacific Ocean, whose sirens had called him decades earlier from across the country.

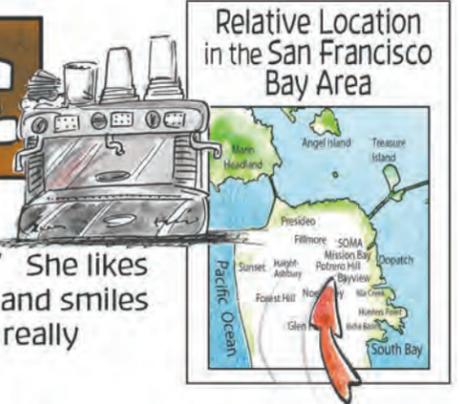
John was a great patron of neighborhood businesses and service people. He championed many charities with contributions large and small. Those who wish to make a donation in his name are invited to give to the Potrero Hill Archives Project (EIN # 45-5395748).





THINKERS CAFE

By: Damon :) Guthrie of SameTeam.US



Friendly faces can be sparse in a big-tech city like San Francisco. When you find a place with friendly faces and a calm, intimate atmosphere, you tend not to forget it. You tend to keep thinking about it. Thinkers Cafe is such a place, offering standard cafe goodies in a small storefront without the commotion that often comes with most cafes.

Just across the street from the San Francisco's Potrero branch public library, Thinkers Cafe offers something else unusual to silently wake up your mind. Its walls display smartly placed hand painted quotes from world-renowned thinkers and writers like Descartes and Oscar Wilde. As you tip your cup to enjoy a sip of organic coffee you may read a Descartes quote, "The greatest minds, as they are capable of the highest excellencies, are open likewise to the greatest aberrations." As you take bite from one of their popular burritos your eyes may read an Oscar Wilde quote, "Moderation is a fatal thing, nothing succeeds like excess." Even the restroom has quotes to offer!



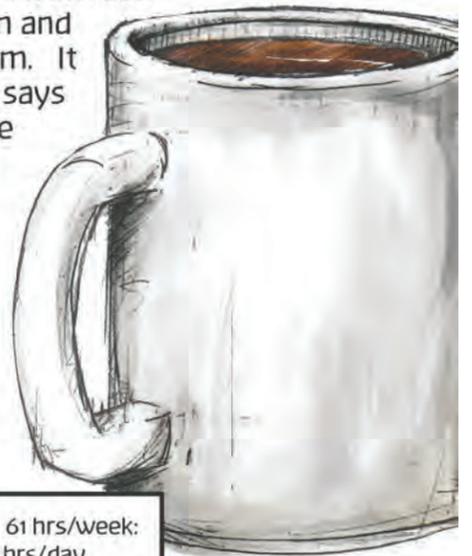
If deep philosophical quotes aren't your cup of tea, or you just feel like speaking with a friendly, real person, perhaps Mandy Huang will have something to say. Mandy is an employee who says of the cafe, "It's like a whole family

here...people, talking about life." She likes working for the small business and smiles as she says "the customers are really friendly."

Two such customers, Sylvia and Peter, make it a point to come to the cafe when they visit their son, who works in tech and lives in the city. From London, the proud parents just love the quaint atmosphere and friendly people. They have been coming to the cafe for years.

The current owner, Jenny, purchased the business in 2008. More than a decade later her commitment to the cafe shows when she tells of her daily total commute-time: 2.5 hours (if she's lucky enough to beat traffic). Jenny has been making the long journey for years from San Jose, leaving her home at 4:30am and usually gets home around 5:00 pm. It all seems worth it for Jenny, she says with a heart-warming smile "I like the neighborhood and I love the customers."

Wherever you come from to enjoy this cafe, you are welcome to think, converse and be reminded, as a parting quote-on-the-wall states, that "Thought is Free."



Thinkers Cafe: 1631 20th St. San Francisco, CA 94107 Phone#: (415) 285-8294 Open 7 days/week, 61 hrs/week: Monday - Friday: 6-15 (6am-3pm) = 9 hrs/day, Saturday and Sunday: 7-15 (7am-3pm) = 8 hrs/day

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DO RE MI from page 10

"I look out and have a view of the Bay. The water view will creep into some of the works. The big sky, the water. Kind of industrial at the same time. It helps to inform the paintings," said Daniel Phill, who has worked in his Noonan Building studio for 16 years. Phill described his work as abstract botanical, abstract floral landscapes, with an emphasis on expressionism, alluding to flowers and vegetation. His pieces are on display this month at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artist Gallery at Fort Mason, part of a benefit sale.

"The location has provoked a whole new phase of my work," said painter Suzy Barnard – a former Hill resident who now lives in Berkeley – who moved into the Noonan Building in 2003. "Views of the water have instigated a whole new exploration of water and light. Seeing these industrial ships that are visible outside my window, sort of appearing and disappearing in the light. The imagery in my work is very dissolved. This particular environment has had a very huge impact on my work as an individual. It still feeds me. I'm very grateful that I've been able to be here this long."

While the artist workshops are private, the popular San Francisco Open Studios, organized by ArtSpan, offers the public an opportunity to visit Noonan Building spaces on a designated weekend in the fall.

"If this all works out, it's a rare thing for artists to get space like this from the developer," Barnard said of the Noonan Building's future replacement. "Any of us who make it to that point, with all the construction and displacement and relocation, will have a great thing. You'll have your studio space and be surrounded by things that work for you. That's a pretty exciting prospect, if we can make it that far, and if it really happens."

An innovative solution to protect artists from eviction is Goodman 2,

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at 1695 18th Street, which opened in 1996 after 13 years of planning by the nonprofit Art Space Development Corporation and executive director Martha Senger. The complex includes market- and below-market rate condominiums with five subsidized live-work studio rentals initially offered to artists who'd been dispossessed from the original Goodman building, located on Geary Boulevard between Franklin and Van Ness. Goodman 2 is now home to nine artists actively engaged in fine arts.

Sofia Carmi, who was evicted from the Certa Building with 25 other artists and moved into Goodman 2 in 2007, paints in oil and acrylic on canvas. Her art, a mix of fantasy, visions, memory, mystery, color, form and texture, is part of a three-women show, *Conversations in paint with 3 Goodman 2 artists; Anahida, Sofia Carmi, and Carolyn Crampton*, being shown this month in Goodman 2's hallway atrium, which can be seen by appointment. Carmi will also show works at the 61st Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition, which opens May 4 and runs through July 26.

"We're always looking for new people, though some of the artists have been exhibiting at the annual event for 50 years," said Potrero Hill Branch Library Manager Genevieve Feldman. "The first Artists Exhibition at the

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Potrero Hill Library was organized by a local artist with the goal of saving the branch library from closing down. At the time, a bunch of artists from the North Beach artists community had relocated to the Dogpatch and Potrero Hill, where the rents were more affordable. Rent in North Beach had gone up to \$99 a month!"

San Francisco is running out of affordable real estate for collectives like the Minnesota Street Project, Goodman 2, the Noonan Building, and art galleries to reside in. "San Francisco is a Gold Rush town and we've had two big tech booms. We have industries that are thriving and we have the creative community that is still struggling," Rosch said. "The impetus of starting Minnesota Street Project was the year 12 galleries in San Francisco failed, when their rents tripled and quadrupled in one year. There are galleries here that now have that stability."

Rosch and other artists observed that well-off newcomers to San Francisco often appear unaware of displacement caused by gentrification and a rapacious real estate market. "We currently don't have companies feeling that they are an actual part of a city to that scale," Rosch said. "Let's get the bright minds together and have this

hard conversation. It's important for people to take responsibility for some of the displacement that their wealth and success causes. I'm interested in developing conversations around new forms of philanthropy that can adopt what we've learned during the development of Minnesota Street Project. Imagine what could be accomplished with the support of a company or companies valued in the billions. We need more infrastructure in the arts, to secure more capital and develop more infrastructure to provide space to work, to provide space to show. What needs to happen is we need to scale this up, work with industries that are thriving and find fiscal contributions to secure more space before it's gone."

"Greater awareness on the part of private industry would be welcome," Phill said.

"More venues, that kind of awareness would be more positive for everybody," Barnard said. "Not just the artists, the public at large would benefit. The MSP is interesting to watch. I'm glad they're doing that."

"It's up to me as an artist to educate. But to bridge that gap, you have to start someplace. An exhibit," Carmi said. "It's not just buying, it's attending. Come and attend an event. Show up."



The new rises alongside the old.

PHOTO: Paul McDonald



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MAKER FEST from page 5

asking to extend to middle school.”

According to Kilduff lower income families should get preference in the school placement lottery. “It’s totally in line with the District values,” she said.

Downtown High School is a “hidden gem,” according to Jodie Tsapis, a social worker and director of the school’s Wellness Center. Downtown caters to teenagers who were unable to excel at more traditional campuses.

“We serve a unique population in the sense that all the students here were assigned to the big comprehensives, and those schools, for whatever reason, did not serve these students,” Tsapis said. “We didn’t want this to be a miniature version of a big high school. It’s a true alternative.”

With just 175 students, Downtown is one of San Francisco Unified School District’s smallest schools. It offers incentives to pupils who maintain greater than an 80 percent attendance rate.

“This school is kids motivating to come to school despite the odds,” Tsapis said. “Everything is intentional and by design. This is very close to a therapeutic high school. One of the things we do is we talk to the kids about why they think they had issues in their previous

school. Something we hear a lot is that they felt invisible. We’re addressing that, the issue of invisibility.”

Unlike traditional schools, Downtown High School students don’t take finals. Instead, they put on exhibitions at the end of the year to demonstrate what they’ve learned.

“Sounds dreamy and it is,” Tsapis said. “But it’s also a hell of a lot of work. It’s important to support the staff and acknowledge how hard this job is. Everyone, the students and staff, are part of their community.”

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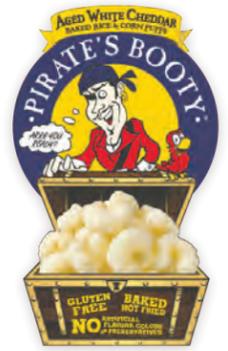
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