

# NOPNA News

nopna.org

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

Winter 2020



## SILENT & STATELY THEY STAND

**Before the shutdown,** I used to drive by rows of Victorians, hardly noticing them. Since the shutdown, though, I've been walking the neighborhood like so many other NOPA residents and slowing down has helped me to see these silent, stately beauties with fresh eyes. I realized that NOPA has far more Victorians than I had imagined and while I am not an expert in architecture of any kind, I was inspired to learn more and to write about my exciting discoveries!

**So, what is a Victorian?** This seemingly simple question is more complicated than I initially thought. If you say "Victorian house in San Francisco," most people conjure up an image of the Painted Ladies on Steiner Street, facing Alamo Square. However, that style is "Queen Anne," only one of the six or more styles referred to as "Victorian."

After a bit of research, I found that the literature doesn't always agree about the names or dates for the styles, but I was able to combine a few sources to develop a consolidated, simplified list: Gothic Revival (1830–1860), Italianate (1840–1870), Second Empire (1850–1880), Stick (1860–1890), and Queen Anne (1875–1910). To further complicate things, some of these styles can be broken down into substyles (Italianate, for example, includes Flat Front, Slant-Front Bays, and the Freestanding Villa) and when you go hunting, you will find many houses of all Victorian styles were built outside their "official" time frames.

With a list of styles and classification characteristics in hand, I sallied out to confirm how the houses around me fit the descriptions. Before long, I was a bit discombobulated.

*(continued on page 4)*

## FROM THE BOARD

# WHAT A YEAR.

### Neighbors -

Though not without some silver linings, this year has presented challenges and hardships at a scale that is unprecedented in many of our lifetimes.

In the face of all this year has thrown at us, our community has shown who it is in its response. Neighbors have organized to help support local businesses; we've found (or rediscovered) the value of parks and new Slow Streets for getting some fresh air or visiting with friends (at a safe distance); and we've made mask-wearing and social-distancing a norm — without becoming distant socially. We've seen local eateries survive temporary closures and re-open outdoor seating to an eager group of diners, while local retailers reshape their businesses through walk-up windows.

The NOPNA Board has created new outlets for our neighborhood to express its community spirit. Events like Hopscotch Your Block and the Halloween Decorating contest helped provide reminders of the steady optimism, gritty resolve, and irrepressible whimsy of our neighbors — even when we couldn't gather in person.

As 2021 approaches, we want to continue to find creative, safe, engaging ways to foster this community spirit. We need your help. If you are interested in getting more involved with NOPNA, there are many ways which can scale to your availability. It can be as small as volunteering for a "paper route" for the NOPNA News or as large as helping to organize events or joining the NOPNA Board. We want the work of NOPNA to reflect the best attributes of this eclectic, vibrant community — the only way it will is if you help put your own mark on it.

The neighborhood we live in is the neighborhood we build. If you'd like to help us build community in NOPA, please send an email today to [board@nopna.org](mailto:board@nopna.org).



***We hope to see you all in person soon.***

**Jason Cauthen** is a San Francisco native who has lived in the neighborhood for ten years with his wife and two kids. He has been on the NOPNA Board and served as Editor of the NOPNA News for four years.



**North of  
Panhandle  
Neighborhood  
Association**

The NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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NOPNA's Mission: The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

Your financial support allows NOPNA to cover the costs of our newsletters, community building events like our block party and holiday party, public art projects in the neighborhood, and other activities that enrich our dynamic neighborhood. It also supports this site.

Make a difference on our streets and become a member today!

Contact NOPNA  
[board@nopna.org](mailto:board@nopna.org)  
[www.nopna.org](http://www.nopna.org)



## VOLUNTEER FOR NOPNA NEWS

NOPNA News is a volunteer-driven publication created by and for our neighbors. If you'd like to get involved we'd love for you to be a part of it - whether by contributing your skills, your voice, or your time.

There are several areas where we are always looking for more support.

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN** - if you have InDesign skills (or would like to learn), we can always use help pulling together each issue. Our designers are responsible for the clean, professional, and stylish look and feel of each issue.

**COPY EDITING** - if you are good with words, have an eye for detail, and like early sneak peaks we'd love your help with the process of getting the articles from submission to print.

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** - if you are interested in helping to identify and select articles, recruit and engage with writers and photographers, and learn more about the process of publication, I am looking for someone who's interested in helping edit the paper.

**WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY, OR DELIVERY** - we can always use more folks interested in writing articles, taking pictures, or delivering the news. Time commitment is minimal and very flexible, and you will see the impact of your work in real life.

If any of these are interesting to you, or if you have other ideas for how you would like to be involved, I'd love to hear from you at [jason@nopna.org](mailto:jason@nopna.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOPNA General Meeting** [NOPNA.org]

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Check [www.nopna.org](http://www.nopna.org) for 2021 dates

**Farmers Market**

DMV Parking Lot - Broderick@Fell

Sundays - 10am-2pm

Stay tuned for updates on other events in 2021 - follow us on facebook, Instagram, twitter, or sign up for our mailing list at [www.nopna.org](http://www.nopna.org).



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## SILENT & STATELY THEY STAND (continued from page 1)

Most houses did not fit neatly into the described characteristics. Our city must have been home to a number of creative architects, carpenters, and contractors, additionally, renovations over the course of time have often changed details of the styles.

Let's start with the earliest style: Gothic Revival. To create a benchmark, I had to go a few blocks east of NOPA to the Westerfield House (1889) at the corner of Scott and Fulton. It is widely acclaimed as the super grand-daddy of Gothic Revival Victorians (or, depending on your perspective, perhaps she is the grand-dame). I am still hunting for other examples of Gothic Revival homes in the 30-block radius of NoPA. If you're aware of any, please email me at [myrtis101@mac.com](mailto:myrtis101@mac.com).

Down the hill, on Broderick between Fulton and McAllister, is a street rich with Queen Annes and is where I take visiting friends to see some of the most extraordinary Victorians in San Francisco. These two rows of homes would be the city's most famous if they were on a square

and had no trees on the street. If you have not feasted your eyes on that block, go there today!

One of the best parts of writing this piece is that I've had an excuse to talk to people on the street, without letting masks and a six-foot mandate separate me from people. One person I particularly enjoyed meeting was Brian Huntley, an artist and carpenter who has been restoring Victorians for more than 20 years. He was working on a particularly delicious Queen Anne on the 700 block of Broderick described above and his excitement about his work on our city's treasures is inspiring.

This is just a taste — “un petit gout” as my Cajun ancestors would say — of what I am discovering about beautiful Victorians in our own neighborhood. I hope this whets your appetite to make acquaintance with these amazing ladies who surround you. Stay tuned for more styles and sites to check out in future editions of NOPNA News!

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**Myrtis Mixon** is a long-time NOPA resident with a passion for our glorious local architecture.



Photos by: Joseph Wilinski

# STRIDE, GLIDE, RIDE: SLOW STREETS ARE SAFE AND WIDE

All it takes is some simple signage that reads “no through traffic,” accompanied by symbols of a pedestrian and a bicycle to create a wonderful concept in street design: Slow Streets. They are a haven for neighbors to play and stretch their legs and a safe transportation route for essential workers who commute by foot or bike. According to Director of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Jeffrey Tumlin, Slow Streets is San Francisco’s most “bang for our buck” traffic engineering initiative and also boasts some of the highest approval ratings, with 86% of on-street residents and 92% of visitors in support. For many residents and visitors, Slow Streets has been a silver lining during the COVID-19 crisis.

NOPA is fortunate to have access within our borders to a Slow Street on Golden Gate Avenue. A bit further afield is a Slow Street on Page. Starting from our Panhandle, we can string together a very long “Slow Street” through Golden Gate Park (continuously on JFK Drive, Overlook Drive, Middle Drive, and the western terminus of MLK Drive) all the way down the Great Highway.

Neighbors have come together — while remaining several feet apart — to form some beautiful community experiences as a result of Slow Streets: There is a concert cellist who performs on Page Street. A self-titled “Chalk Fairy”



Photo by: Joseph Wilinski

inscribes therapeutic messages in the asphalt. There are “tiny living rooms” set up on Golden Gate Avenue, showing that urban dwellers are indeed using the street for the public good. Kids have enhanced the street with hand-drawn messages: one sign affixed to a barricade reminds drivers to “please slow down,” and another inscribed on the street in chalk implores us to “be excellent to each other.” Each is a reminder that wisdom accompanies youth. Artists have created installations on Slow Streets with civic messages. Potted plants have

appeared next to Slow Street barriers, greening the streets.

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several feet apart —  
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Streets.

Streets are a public good and funded by taxes we all pay. It is refreshing to see that the city has widened its perspective of who belongs on streets and what streets are for. Next time you’re craving a walk, leave your headphones at home and check out a Slow Street. No matter what good, clean fun is going on in the street, you’ll be in for a treat.

**Robin Kutner** is the Corresponding Secretary on the NOPNA Board. She is extremely concerned about climate change and Vision Zero street safety and she makes transportation mode decisions accordingly.

# NOPA SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (NERT) UPDATE



The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a disaster preparedness organization sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).

NERT recently marked a number of significant milestones, including the celebration of NERT Day on October 17th — you may have noticed the green lights illuminating City Hall! It was on this day 30 years ago, in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake, that San Francisco residents organized with the SFFD to improve the city's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters.

October also marked an occasion to practice our earthquake readiness skills with International ShakeOut Day, an event that has been conducted on every third Thursday of October, since 2009. The main goal of ShakeOut Day is to get the world prepared for earthquakes and here in the Bay Area, given our history, we should use ShakeOut Day as an opportunity to learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. Even during COVID, we should all know how to be quake ready!

The key theme of ShakeOut Day and the current recommendation for the safest thing to do during an earthquake is Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Remember that the old practice of getting into a doorway or running outside a building is no longer recommended. Participants in ShakeOut Day practiced this drill, staying in position for one minute or more, as if there were a major earthquake occurring at that moment. It's a good idea to practice this drill at home too. Teach your

children to go under a table and hold on if one is near, and find an earthquake-safe location in every room of your house or apartment.

If you'd like to learn more, check out [www.shakeout.org/california/index.html](http://www.shakeout.org/california/index.html) or join one of NERT's free training programs to hone your emergency preparedness skills. NERT offers both basic and advanced training throughout the year to those who live and work in San Francisco, and sessions are taught in Spanish and Cantonese. In NERT's 30-year history, approximately 30,762 civilians have been trained valuable skills to assist the San Francisco Fire Department after a major disaster by taking care of themselves, their families, and their neighbors. For

more information on upcoming training check the NERT website, [www.sfgov.org/sfnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sfnert).

NOPA's NERT is currently coordinated by Taran Ramage and Nathan Karkoski. The

team collaborates closely with the Cole Valley/Parnassus Heights NERT, coordinated by Jon Wurfl. Our neighborhood leaders gather teams after a disaster to survey our neighborhoods, provide information to the SFFD, conduct light search and rescue, medical triage, and help transport victims to medical treatment facilities. If you know or meet these folks, please thank them for their service!



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**People can sign up for the next NERT class:**  
[sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879](https://sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879)

## LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

# YAHYA AND WAFI OF JANNAH



In 2009, Yahya Salih and his wife, Wafa, opened Jannah and it quickly became known as a hidden gem tucked inconspicuously on Fulton Street. Jannah is Yahya's second restaurant; in 1998

Yahya opened Yaya Cuisine (in SOMA) which earned him attention for his culinary prowess. In the early 90s, the SF Chronicle's food critics rated Yahya one of the top five chefs in the city and he received rave reviews in national magazines like Travel and Leisure. NOPA neighbors are certainly lucky to have Yahya and his delightful blend of Mesopotamian and Californian cuisine right down the street.

Take it from me — I have lived in the neighborhood for ten years and hadn't tried Jannah until I had already been here a few years. "You have to try their falafel pizza," a neighbor enthusiastically told me. How could I resist? The Safeehat falafel pizza is a flattened, baked garbanzo patty topped with pesto, roasted eggplant, mushrooms, tomatoes and feta — and it's well worth the hype. Other favorites include the kuzi (phyllo dough filled with shredded lamb,

**The Safeehat falafel pizza is a flattened, baked garbanzo patty topped with pesto, roasted eggplant, mushrooms, tomatoes and feta — and it's well worth the hype.**

rice, almonds, cinnamon, and ginger underneath a pomegranate-rosemary sauce) and the baba ganoush, a classic that's been artfully transformed into many variations: mama ghanoush (eggplant and pomegranate), hudhud ganoush (turnip with date syrup), and zuzu ganoush (carrot with tamarind).

A true family establishment, Jannah is run by not only Yahya and Wafa, but also their three children — two sons in their twenties and a teenage daughter — who help with the restaurant where they can. Before the pandemic broke out, the restaurant had several employees. Now the family is working closely together to keep the business afloat, relying on takeout orders to get them through July. They are extremely focused on safety, cleanliness, and continuing to delight their customers with soul-warming cuisine as we all navigate this pandemic together. "We greatly appreciate and thank all of the neighbors who have been helping and ordering from the restaurant," said Wafa. She thinks about other neighborhood establishments, asking "please support as many small businesses and restaurants as you can during this time."

Jannah is open for outdoor dining on its beautiful and spacious back patio on Tuesday-Sundays from 4-9 p.m at 1775 Fulton (at Masonic), you can also call for takeout at (415) 567-4400. Gift carts are also available.



**Meg Rahner** has lived in NOPA for 10 years and currently serves as the Vice President of the NOPNA board.

# HALLOWEEN FUN!



Our virtual Halloween costume contest winner, Harvey Bennett, 2.

Though we were all very sad when we realized we wouldn't be able to have our annual Halloween block party on Grove Street this year — it was heartening to see people show their holiday spirit and put a little extra into decorating their homes. Whether by carving elaborate pumpkins, stringing fake cobwebs everywhere, or mounting skeletons spookily crawling up the side of a house, decorations were popping up all over the neighborhood.

Kids and adults alike delighted in checking out the creativity, ingenuity, and indomitable holiday spirit displayed by our neighbors. Neighbors also showed their spirit by contributing photos of costumes to compete in our annual costume contest! Hopefully things return closer to normal over the next several months, and we'll be able to (safely) see everyone again in their great costumes at next year's Halloween event!



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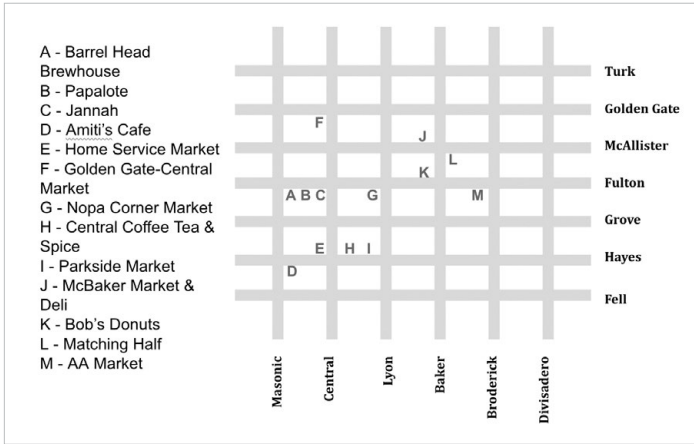
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## LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

# ADAPTING TO REOPENING



On September 30, 2020, San Francisco reopened for indoor dining requiring a limited capacity at 25 percent and compliance to guidelines provided by the Department of Public Health. This was a major milestone for local businesses, even with limited capacity and an experience that is at times quite different to pre-pandemic dining. Businesses have adapted to the reopening phased approach since June, with limited hours and social distancing protocols (e.g., 6ft apart lines, mask requirements, plexiglass separations between counters and customers); this new requirement is one more consideration. Of course, this brief window of indoor dining has again closed as COVID-19 cases are rising and our local businesses have re-adapted their plans for this dynamic reality.

Owner Ivan Hopkinson says Barrel Head Brouhse is continuing to operate their to-go window for food and drinks. They await an SFMTA response for their request to temporarily move the bus stop so

they can build a parklet like many other businesses in the city have. Ivan explains that the brief indoor dining reopening was not easy: the notification came as a surprise and

did not provide them with any time to prepare their partners and vendors. As with the earlier phase of reopening, they will continue to learn from mistakes and adapt accordingly.

Nearby, Jannah will continue their outdoor patio dining option. Other businesses such as Central Coffee Tea & Spice and Amiti's Cafe have no immediate plans for indoor dining but will continue to operate through to-go windows.

Though no one can say when things will return to "normal" or when indoor dining will again be an option for San Francisco restaurants, please continue to do your part and be safe, wear a mask, and keep supporting our local businesses in whatever way you can.



Photos by: Joseph Wilinski



**Carmen Chan** is a San Francisco native who has lived in Nopa for the past 8+ years. She is passionate about neighborhood businesses and leads NOPNA's outreach to our local merchants.

# WELCOME **CAPTAIN PEDRINI,** SF PARK STATION



A new Captain recently arrived at our neighborhood Park Station. Captain Pedrini is a San Francisco Bay Area native who was raised in a large family that includes current and retired law enforcement officers. After

earning a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, he went on to complete a master's degree in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Since beginning his career in 1990, Pedrini served in a few other Bay Area jurisdictions before transferring to the SFPD in 1994. In San Francisco he worked across several neighborhoods (Tenderloin, Market, and Mission) and policing functions (uniformed patrol, foot beat, plainclothes, Investigation Crime Unit, homicide, and risk management). In 2012 he was promoted to Captain and worked in the Homeland Security Department just prior to his current post at Park Station.

Captain Pedrini's top priority is reducing violent crime. In this neighborhood, property crime is a frequent problem, so he has also stepped up efforts to prevent auto theft and garage break-ins. The captain has increased the number of high-visibility patrols in order to try to catch people in the act and has also partnered with SAFE to educate neighbors about steps they can take to deter crime (e.g., automatic lights or garage door locking systems).

To address the challenges of the unhoused, the Park Station police are also working closely with health street professional teams. Captain Pedrini tells NOPNA News that Park Station officers do engage with people who have set up tents, but there is little they can do unless the person is committing a crime.

With regard to Vision Zero — Park Station has positioned traffic cars to focus on the areas in the neighborhood for which they receive the most calls. Captain Pedrini's goal is to focus on enforcement in those locations. The city has done a lot of work behind the scenes to improve safety in these corridors and Park Station assures NOPNA News that they are there to support and enforce as much as possible.

If neighbors are interested in getting on the email list of the weekly Park Station newsletter, they can email [sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org). The newsletter starts out with general safety awareness and advice and recommendations and recognizes specific officers for their exceptional performance. You can also follow Park station on twitter at @SFPDPark.

**>>>** The Park Police station covers the North Panhandle neighborhood, Haight Ashbury, the Castro, and eastern edge of Golden Gate Park areas and is located at 1899 Waller Street.

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**Leela Gill** is married with two boys, is a NOPNA board member, and has been active in safety and community organizing in the neighborhood since 2000.



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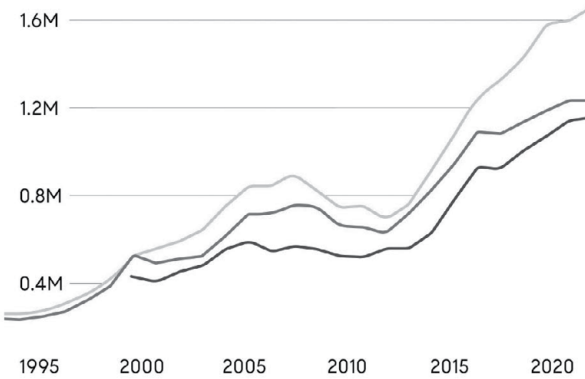
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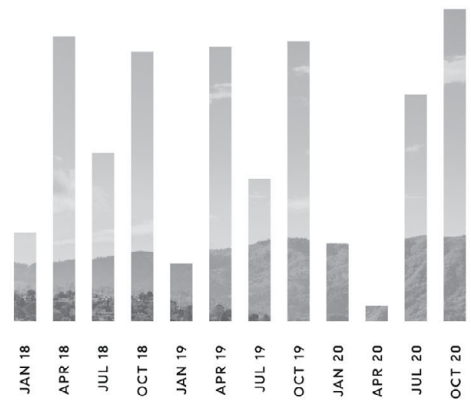
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