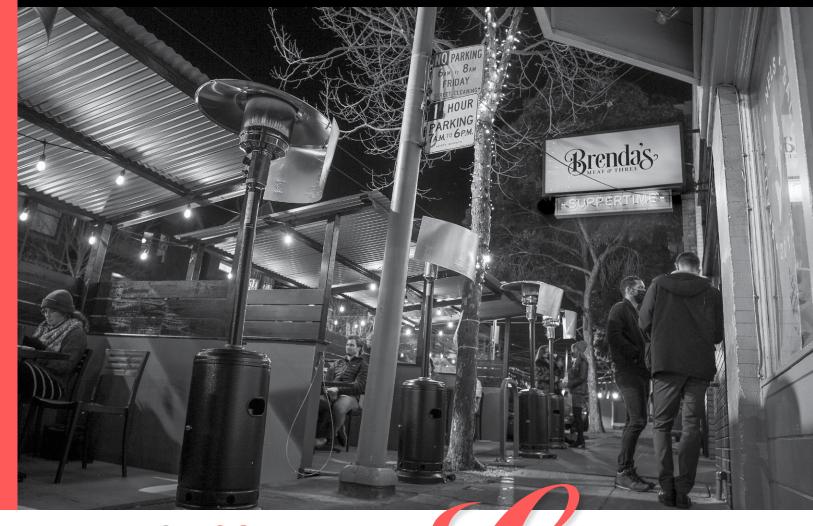
# NOPNANews

nopna.org

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

Spring 2021



SH W SMALL BUSINESS SOME \*\*\*

In late January, after almost two months of lockdown, San Francisco returned to purple tier, enabling the vibrant Divisadero corridor to reopen. Eager to get back up and running at increased capacity, local restaurants began interpreting new safety regulations and adjusting business practices to comply with the precautions. They worked wonders, converting sidewalks into charming, bistro-lighted venues where friends and neighbors could safely socialize.

"We found out that we were reopening the night before, so we called the staff and just hoped they hadn't found other jobs," said Erin Williams, Manager of the pop-up Beretta. "We're literally moving a dining room twice a day, so you need a lot of hands. This past year has been a lot of work, but there is a heightened sense of pride, and it feels good to be hiring again. The neighbors have been super great. We love our happy hour regulars!"

### FROM THE BOARD

### SIGNS OF SPRING

### Neighbors—

Last March, it was difficult to imagine what the year ahead would bring. While everyone faced challenges at different scales, our local community pulled together. We bought groceries for at-risk neighbors, supported local businesses when times got tough, and grieved together upon the loss of beloved community members. We remember and honor those who have passed including SF Skate Club co-founder Thuy Nguyen, who positively impacted and shaped the lives of hundreds of local children; long-time friend and neighbor Robbie Socks, who famously hosted the "Baby Disco Party" with his family in their garage on Grove Street at NOPNA's annual Halloween event; and most recently, Jim Grossman, who served as vice president of NOPA's neighboring Anza Vista Neighborhood Association for over ten years.

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful, vibrant neighborhood with equally wonderful neighbors. In fact, it is the community that makes this neighborhood special. There are myriad generous neighbors who offer their personal time, or even their possessions, on Facebook groups like Buy Nothing NOPA (see the article later in this issue). We also have many inspiring community members like Julie Nicholson, who made a miraculous recovery after she was hit and severely injured last year in a traffic collision, while she was on a run in the Panhandle. To mark the anniversary of her collision and draw attention to the reality of traffic violence and unsafe streets in San Francisco, she ran a half marathon on March 14. Neighbors poured out in support, holding signs to cheer her on, and running with her (at a distance).

NOPNA is committed to establishing neighborhood unity, creating safe streets, improving the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood, and welcoming new neighbors. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you're interested in creating safer streets with our Vision Zero subcommittee, joining our Land Use subcommittee, writing an article for this newsletter, volunteering for future events, or even joining our Board, please reach

out to board@nopna.org. We also hope to see you at our next virtual neighborhood meeting on April 15 (sign up at www.nopna.org to receive registration info).

Stay safe, be well, take care of one another, and keep the kindness flowing.

Meg Rahner has lived in NOPA for 10 years and currently serves as vice president on the NOPNA board.



Meg Rahner: NOPNA Vice President



### 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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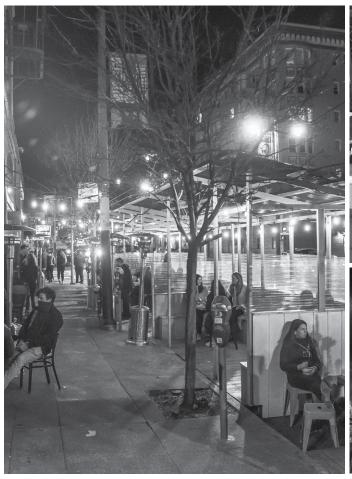
Image Printing, San Francisco

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 www.nopna.org







otos by: (Left and Bottom Right) Joseph Wilinsk

To celebrate the occasion, the Divisadero Merchants Association (DMA) kicked off Valentine's Day weekend with a community event to support small businesses. The DMA gifted heart-shaped boxes of chocolate to patrons who could present three receipts dated between February 8th and 13th from stores or restaurants on Divisadero Street.

Bright and early on the day of the event, Anisa Alazraiea, Interim President of the DMA, set up a booth on the corner of Grove and Divisadero. "We had a pink table, heart-shaped decorations everywhere, boxes of chocolate, Valentine's Day balloons, and upbeat music." With everyone practicing social distancing, she knew it was going to take an extra special spectacle to encourage passersby to inquire about the event.

People strolling by were eager to learn more when they saw the spirited booth. A few had seen the DMA's event flyers around the neighborhood throughout the

prior week. During the event, it became clear to Anisa that people were participating for more than just a box of chocolates. Many had been looking for ways to show support for small businesses, and the event was the perfect way to reinforce their efforts. It also became a friendly competition. "People would have one receipt from when they went grocery shopping and then want to buy two more items to finish the game," said Alazraiea.

The DMA considered the event to be a great success. Businesses saw an increase in shoppers, shoppers received a Valentine's Day treat, and the DMA was able to remind the community they are advocates for the merchants and small businesses along the vibrant Divisadero corridor. Anisa hopes this is the first of many events hosted by the DMA this year.

Brigid Rigali moved to NOPA last year and enjoys spending time running and playing basketball in the panhandle.

### HOW'D WE VOTE?

### San Francisco is a leader

in issues like social reform and housing. We've heard this before but does our voting record validate this statement? How do North Panhandlers compare to others in this city? Well, you may or may not be surprised, but we're among the most progressive neighborhoods in San Francisco.

For state propositions, this neighborhood generally voted more progressively than the rest of San Francisco voters by a margin of around 10% — and San Franciscan voters are consistently more progressive than California voters.

The same is seen in city propositions, with NOPA voting about 10% more in favor than the rest of the city.

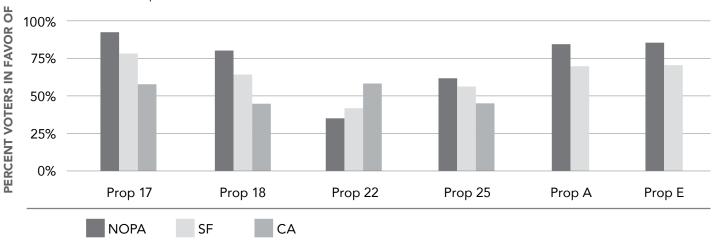
We're also a very active voting group. Sixty-five hundred NOPA residents — 89% of registered voters — participated in the November 3rd election. Of these, 8% turned out on Election Day and 92% voted by mail, including those who submitted their mail-in ballots to the voting stations on Election Day.

You may not be surprised to learn that NOPA residents voted overwhelmingly for Biden/Harris (as did San Francisco and California voters). There are also a number of propositions for which NOPA residents voted more than 80% in favor—such as Prop 17 which restored the right to vote of those on parole for a felony. NOPA voted in the same direction as San Francisco on each proposition, but broke with California voters on issues like Prop 22 (app-based drivers) and Prop 25 (cash bail).

If you'd like to learn more, the San Francisco Department of Elections has posted detailed results for the November 3rd 2020 election at https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-3-2020-election-results-summary.

### SAMPLE OF NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION RESULTS

Source: San Francisco Department of Elections.



### WHAT WE VOTED ON

- Prop 17 Restore the right to vote to people convicted of felonies who are on parole (PASSED)
- Prop 18 Allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections (DEFEATED)
- Prop 22 Consider app-based drivers to be independent contractors (PASSED)
- Prop 25 Replace cash bail with risk assessments (DEFEATED)
- Prop A Fund health and homelessness, parks, and streets (PASSED)
- Prop E Remove minimum police staffing requirements (PASSED)

### LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

### HISTORY AND A HAIRCUT— STEWART'S STYLE-O-RAMA



There aren't many businesses that last ten years in San Francisco, let alone twenty. But, if you've been fortunate enough to have your hair cut by Norman Stewart, you have experienced a sole proprietor who's successfully run a business in San Francisco for more than a half a century.

Stewart's Style-O-Rama is an unpretentious barbershop in the classic style. There are stacks of magazines to flip through while you wait, the TV is tuned to news or sports, and Stewart is always happy to share his thoughts and wisdom on whatever you'd like to chat about that day while he expertly cuts your hair to your specifications.

Stewart was born in Texarkana, Texas where his parents ran a grocery store. As a young boy, he moved with his family to San Francisco, where the prospects were better in the grocery

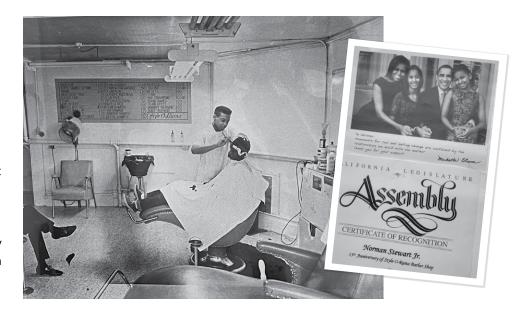
business (Texarkana had recently gone dry). In the fifties and sixties, Stewart attended Brett Harte Elementary, Franklin Junior High, Galileo High School, City College, and finally Moler College where he graduated in 1962. In 1964, he opened a barber shop on Haight and served clients including Jimi Hendrix and Joan Baez. After being refused membership by the racist policies of the all-white barber's union, he established an independent business. He then went on on to run what he believes was the "first integrated barber shop" in the country when he hired a white employee.

When Stewart's landlord raised his rent in 1975, he bought his current location on Hayes at Ashbury. There he battled city regulators to install a pool table in his shop until Supervisor Harvey Milk interceded in Stewart's favor. Since the seventies.

the demographics of the clientele have shifted with the surrounding neighborhood. Stewart is proud to have a diverse set of clients that "look like America," the oldest of whom, Mr. Wilson, is over 100 years old.

While he has taken the COVID closures in stride — the shop has been hit just as many businesses have — Style-O-Rama is now open for business and keeps things safe by limiting it to one customer at a time (there's no indoor waiting space) and by following all of the mask and glove protocols. So if you are getting tired of your COVID-shaq look, grab your mask and pay Norman a visit. He'll get you looking sharp again.

Stewart's Style-O-Rama is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday at 1918 Hayes and takes walk-ins. If you want to call to see if he's busy, you can reach him at (415) 666-0203.



# **GEMS** IN OUR MIDST

### In my last article "Silent and Stately They Stand,"

Lintroduced readers to a few of the Queen Anne Victorian beauties of our neighborhood (like the one that houses Bob's Donuts on Baker and Fulton). In this edition of NOPNA News, I cover some more local gems that exhibit earlier styles, including Italianate and Stick.

Italianate has three substyles: Flat Front, Slant-Bay, and Freestanding Villa. In our neighborhood, the oldest Italianate style, the Flat Front, can be seen on the 800 block of Central (midblock, west side). Rectangular, it has the flat front and a false front above the roof. Other traits are the simple window hoods and the top cornice held up by multiple brackets.

Although I found no Freestanding Italianate Villas, there are scores of Slant-Bays. The definitive feature, rounded or flat bay windows, was created to increase square footage as lots became smaller. Classical columns frame the door and rounded, bulky cornices extend above the front door, with even bulkier cornices above the roof line. One authority, Judith Lynch, who surveyed the Victorians in our city in 1973, said that only 1,900 Slant Bays are still standing.

On the north side of the 1800 block of Golden Gate, you will find twin examples of Slant-Bays. Note the stunning rounded windows. Turn around and admire the grand Italianate-style apartment building

For those readers who didn't see the last issue, here is a short guide to Victorian styles and build dates.

Gothic Revival: 1830 –1860 Italianate: 1850-1890; **Second Empire:** 1852-1870;

**Stick:** 1870–1900;

**Queen Anne: 1875-1905** 

(though many were built outside

these years as well)







Italianate home (top photo) alongside neighboring twin Slant-Bays on the north side of Golden Gate (middle and lower photos)

across the street on the corner of Golden Gate and Broderick (facing north). Recently it was painted stained glass cobalt blue and embellished with gilded ornamentation.

Starting in the 1880s our city saw the construction of hundreds of Stick houses. That Victorian type is defined by straight lines, squared-off bay windows, repetitive small decorative trim, and a gabled roof that often has a false front rising above. During this period, steampowered machinery made affordable mass-produced ornamental millwork, and catalogs were available for homeowners to choose decorative pieces. Lynch counted 3,600 in her survey of the city.

One stately blue Stick among a row of ten on the 1900 block of Golden Gate (mid-block, north side) was restored in 2015. Owner Purvi Sahu said it took over a year and involved gilded rosettes and leaves, as well as five angels on the cartouche representing her family members. Another beautiful Stick is at Baker and McAllister, housing Matching Half on the first floor, and featuring stained glass windows at the corner door.

If these articles have piqued your interest, find more information online. Start with The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco (https://www.victorianalliance.org). Six virtual tours of numerous houses are waiting for you to watch for free. Once restrictions are lifted, in-person tours of the Victorians will allow us to visit some of these beauties in our midst, these silent and stately jewels. Additionally, to see more of Judith Lynch's research, go to OpenSFHistory.org.

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

# BUY NOTHING. GIVE FREELY. SHARE CREATIVELY.

- Beeswax
- A microwave (received)
- A microwave (gifted)
- Maternity clothing
- Baby clothing

- Bureau
- Armchair
- Hair color kits
- Rugs
- A 6.5' tall faux ficus tree

These are just the first ten things that come to mind when I try to recall the many, many gifts I've received and given through our local Buy Nothing group. In fact, the Buy Nothing groups are essentially the only reason I'm still on Facebook. Honestly, even the posts which don't benefit me directly often bring me joy, whether it's from seeing objects get reused or recycled, or from the wit and humor many posters use to hawk their wares. If you use Facebook but haven't joined our local Buy Nothing group, I highly recommend you give it a try. Maintained by local moderators and guided by the principles of the Buy Nothing movement, it is a bright little beacon and a happy reminder of what true community feels like even in these tense times.

From its roots on Bainbridge Island in Washington, where it was founded by two friends as an experiment, the Buy Nothing Project has spread to 30 nations worldwide. "Buy Nothing Project rules are simple: Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share amongst neighbors. Ask for anything you'd like to receive for free or borrow. Keep it legal. No hate speech. No buying or selling, no trades or bartering, we're strictly a gift economy." (www.buynothingproject.org)

If the project interests you, find us at Buy Nothing NOPA on Facebook and begin your own journey of giving freely and sharing creatively. Buy Nothing is also planning to launch an app in May, and community members can join the waitlist at www.buynothing.live.



Just one example of the eclectic items on offer from the Buy Nothing community.

## **BLACK LIGHT** by INK DWELL

Black Light, a new mural on Grove Street between Lyon and Central, highlights three San Francisco species: the Brewer's Blackbird, the black rose succulent, and the pipevine swallowtail butterfly. The mural is on the side of an all black Victorian, exploring the dynamic relationship between darkness and light.

Black Light is the latest mural from the art studio Ink Dwell, founded by artist Jane Kim and writer Thayer Walker (www.inkdwell.com). In describing the dynamic of the NOPA mural, the Ink Dwell Studio team states, "[i]n nature, the color black interacts with the environment in diverse and magnificent ways. When light hits a Brewer's Blackbird at certain angles, the black pigmented









feathers reflect an iridescent glow, revealing a rainbow of visible light. Pipevine swallowtail butterflies flash hues of deep blue when the black wings interact with sunlight. And, much like melanin protects humans from sunburn, the petals of the black rose succulent turn black when exposed to harsh sunlight. In a lack of sunlight, they turn green."

Ink Dwell's objective is to make art that inspires people to love and protect the natural world. In fact, Jane Kim has spent her life painting nature. Perhaps her largest and most recognizable project, especially to us San Franciscans, is the Migrating Mural, featuring the monarch butterfly, the largest of which calls downtown San Francisco home. The massive mural, which covers two sides of an 11-story building at O'Farrell and Hyde, is an SF must-see.

In our own neighborhood, Black Light spans three stories on the side of 1641 Grove Street. It was completed in February 2021 in latex paint. Swing by and take a look — we are so excited to have an Ink Dwell original here!

Michelle Petersen lives in NoPa with her husband, her son, and her 3 dogs.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOPNA (Virtual) General Meeting

Next meeting: April 15th – 7–8:30 pm Third Thursday of Even months (June 17th; August 19th; October 21st)

Sign up for our email list and get all the details and updates at www.nopna.org. Or follow us on facebook, Instagram, or twitter!

### **Farmers Market**

DMV Parking Lot – Broderick@Fell Sundays – 10am–2pm



# THE BRIDE

### Short Story by Katherine McCarty

Ms. Volkova placed the laced sleeve across her knee, its floral lattice sown in delicate patterns over the nude mesh. A bride's business is her own — Ms. Volkova does not wonder at it, unless the fabric tells her otherwise.

Since the fitting, the sun had lowered into a pocket of fog, its subtle hues fading further to grey. Ms. Volkova brought the needle to her lips, folding the fabric at the apex of the shoulders. Her hair straight and dark, like her gaze — brushed across her cheek as she leaned over the dress

As she hooked the needle into the fabric, the bulb of her working lamp went out. Ms. Volkova frowned, and the lace snagged. She was reminded of the hesitation the bride had when entering her shop her silhouette had blocked the light even then.

Ms. Volkova set the dress down as she searched for a new bulb.

Light dispersed back over Ms. Volkova's table, yet darkness remained in the shadows of the dress folds. Pinching a razor between her knuckles, she opened the seam of the shoulder.

"The tulle will settle, you see?" Ms. Volkova remembered saying, as she took the dress out of the bag for the fitting.

"Funny, isn't it? Seems to be the nature of the dress. You would hope otherwise." The bride's musing had a sweet and distant chime to it.

Ms. Volkova's reply was sharp. "No, observe. ou peel back its layers, and it will fill out again." The bride responded with a modest hum, and reached out to touch the coarse underskirt.

As the fabric fell open in Ms. Volkova's working hands, she was reminded of the odd exchange, and reflected on the young woman's shallow-set eyes. The quick distraction led to a sharp prick on her finger — from a pin. She brought her finger against her tongue, and the taste of iron startled her.

A small drop of blood seeped into the white webbing of the lace. Ms. Volkova's eyes darkened

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as she looked from the stained fabric to the door of her shop where she last saw the bride. The woman had stopped at the threshold, looking out onto the street before she left. Her shadow fell from her like a dark train as she bowed her head from the descending sun.

Unease settled in Ms. Volkova's stomach even then, as it did now. Like the shadow of the bride had never left—tethered to the thread of the dress.

The stain would be removed from the dress — it was all that Ms. Volkova had the power to do. Cutting the lace, she walked to the door of her shop. Fog filled her nostrils as she stepped onto the street, its grey lightness veiling the dusk as if a temperate lace draped the approaching night.

The blood-stained piece of fabric dangled between her fingers, flapping its fate in the same dense breeze that brought a chill to Ms. Volkova's flushed cheeks.

### Email us to get involved: board@nopna.org



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

### MEET THE BOARD



PRESIDENT.

Julian Mackie started
volunteering with NOPNA
because he wanted to give
back to, and become more
deeply invested in, the
community. Julian's interest
lies in using data
to improve our community,
particularly housing
and pedestrian safety.
In his free time you can
catch him exploring San
Francisco or enjoying our
beautiful parks.



VICE PRESIDENT. Meg Rahner moved to San Francisco from Erie, Pennsylvania in 2010 and has resided in NOPA ever since. She joined the NOPNA board in 2017 to become more actively involved in the neighborhood. She enjoys planning fun neighborhood events — including Hopscotch Your Block last year — and looks forward to the next opportunity for NOPNA to host a safe neighborhood gathering.



TREASURER.

Mike Leeder has lived in the neighborhood since 2004, and has been NOPNA's Treasurer for five years. When he's not sheltering-in-place, you'll find Mike delivering the NOPNA newsletter, picking up garbage on his block, or visiting his neighborhood haunts including Central Coffee, Faletti's, Bob's Donuts, and NOPA Restaurant.



CO-RECORDING
SECRETARY.

Jason Cauthen is a San
Francisco native who loves
Bay to Breakers. He moved
to this neighborhood in
2011 with his wife and
kids. When not working,
editing the NOPNA News
or spending time with
his family, Jason enjoys
brief excursions on his
bike. Reach out to him at
jason@nopna.org.



CO-RECORDING SECRETARY.
Leela Gill a 20+ year resident, is grateful to live in a city that took COVID-19 seriously and has survived the pandemic by socializing — at a distance — with her neighborhood friends and taking long walks to the Panhandle, USF, and the park with her family.



CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY.
Robin Kutner has lived
in San Francisco since
2012 and joined NOPNA
to learn more about
community involvement
and improvement. She is
passionate about sustainable
transportation, Vision Zero
advocacy, and land use policy.
When not volunteering in
various ways, you can find her
riding down the Wiggle or
running in the Panhandle.



Jeremy Besmer has lived in the neighborhood since moving to San Francisco in 2015. He is passionate about transportation and urbanism, and he joined the board to get more involved in advocating for street improvements to make the neighborhood safer and more enjoyable to get around.



Jeff Dewey and his wife, Megan, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010. Their nine-year-old daughter is proud to be a NOPA native. Jeff has been updating the NOPNA website and welcomes any feedback at webstuff@nopna.org.



**Tim Hickey** and his wife, Leah, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and can be seen with their son, Liam, biking and walking through the area.

### The Belle of Alamo Square Park

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New Year, New Market. Home sales this January were up 27% over January 2020, a tremendous increase. The market seems to be heating up much quicker this year than what is typical. Ranked in the Top 1% of SF Realtors, we bring 25+ years of experience. Call us to learn how we can help you optimize in this market.



### Declan Hickey

Top Producer 1% SFAR 415.902.2446 declan.hickey@compass.com DRE 01356209



### Mollie Poe

Top Producer 1% SFAR 415.902.2447 mollie@molliepoe.com DRE 01239280

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