

GPN

glen park news

Winter 2010-2011
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The Newspaper of the Glen Park Association
www.glenparkassociation.org

Giant Victory in Glen Park

When the San Francisco Giants won their first-ever World Series on Nov. 2, 2010, the entire city erupted in joy. In Glen Park, the crowd at the Glen Park Station bar spilled into the street while people began streaming out of their houses and down to the village just after the win. Within 15 minutes, 40 or so people, including a large number of up-past-their-bedtimes children, were congregated at the corner of Chenery and Diamond.

They banged pots and pans, blew horns, cheered and one enterprising mom even lugged a drum set out to add to the cacophony.

The celebration continued for almost a full hour before everyone finally went home, sated with their victory dance.



Photo by Michael Waldstein

Scott Wiener Elected Supervisor; Vows to Keep Glen Park on Radar

Miffed about the pothole that keeps getting bigger on Elk Street? Frightened to walk home from BART after dark? Won-

dering why the gym at the rec center isn't open seven days a week, or for that matter, the library? Your Muni bus was late—again—and you want someone to do something about it *now*. Come Jan. 8, the go-to guy at City Hall for Glen Park residents will be Scott Wiener, who was elected the neighbor-

hood's new representative on the Board of Supervisors.

Wiener, 40, beat three other candidates in the Nov. 2 election in the race for District Eight supervisor. He replaces Bevan Dufty, who is being termed out of the job after eight years and is now running for mayor.

Single and gay, Wiener is a Philadelphia native who lives in a Castro district condo with his 14-year-old cat, Tabitha. He owns a car and says he rides Muni

five to seven days a week. The Harvard Law School grad moved to San Francisco in 1997 and served as president of his neighborhood association and started a volunteer safety patrol.

Wiener, a deputy city attorney who supervises a team of lawyers in the trial division, came of age politically in the San Francisco Democratic Party. He co-chaired the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Glen Park Association Meeting

Wednesday,
January 19, 2011
7–9 p.m.
St. John's School
925 Chenery St.

Agenda:

Newly-elected District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener will answer questions. Rec and Park staff will present a program about their capital planning for Glen Canyon Park renovations.

Editor:

Thanks for publishing my letter mentioning recent national recognition for San Francisco's primarily privately paid Patrol Special Police program (that's our Glen Park Officer Cal's program), but you were concerned about a \$300,000 program administrative cost to taxpayers. A research group used that figure to justify its recent draconian recommendation that the City terminate the entire neighborhood police force, but they failed to mention it would take about \$3 million to replace all 30 active Patrol Special Police with SFPD officers. We can't do that: Chief Gascon is facing a 25 percent reduction in his force in five years. He's now pulling officers away from neighborhoods to police large sporting events downtown (there goes Glen Park's "community policing"). If Officer Cal goes, those of us who want

Letters to the Editor

to pay to provide one more uniformed officer in the Village are left with hiring a 10b off-duty SFPD officer at from two to three times the cost—an officer who serves tired after-hours, and one who doesn't provide us with liability insurance naming the City as an additional insured, something that Officer Cal provides. The group reached pretty far by showing a slide of Buddie's Market, and saying that Officer Cal standing outside wouldn't be all that effective or needed, because a criminal could act out in his presence. Come to think of it, this absurd argument applies equally well to the SFPD. Should we also dismantle the "ineffective" SFPD to save taxpayers money?

Ann Grogan

Dear Editor and Staff:

In reference to your front page article (*Glen Park News* fall edition), I wish to clarify your last paragraph.

The housing project between Rousseau and Milton Streets and east of the "stalled development" may not be a part of the foreclosure proceedings but is very

much a part of the two-block complex. In 1989, San Francisco City Planning informed neighbors within the required radius and held several meetings to reveal and discuss the proposal encompassing these two city blocks mentioned in your article. I attended those meetings.

Twenty-one years have expired, and we neighbors have yet to see closure.

My opinion, based on 55 years in the construction trades, is that had the entire two-block project been conducted in a timely fashion, it never would have seen this "recession."

[At] one of those community meetings that I had attended 21 years ago, San Francisco City Planning officials invited people (names long since forgotten) from the mayor's office to "push" the condo proposal. They told us that we should accept the project or we might get something "worse." That those same City Planning officials have likely retired or passed on does not render that agency less culpable than the developer. The public trust has been violated.

My contacts with City Planning, the Dept. of Permits and [Supervisor] David Campos' office have been to no avail.

An article in the *San Francisco Chron-*

icle's Oct. 17 business section reveals a 173-unit apartment complex proposed to be built on the demolished Kragen site near City College and scheduled to be completed mid- to late 2012.

Should we warn our Ocean Avenue neighbors?

Respectfully,
Michael Wertz
Cuvier Street

Dear Editor,

Answering a call sounded in the pages of the Fall 2010 issue of the *Glen Park News*, many, many neighborhood folks have shown their support for Bird & Beckett by deliberately increasing their purchases at the store. We know you've lent similar support to the many other little businesses lining Diamond and Chenery Streets—and to one another—giving the Glen Park community a cohesive character that's unique.

We've marveled at accounts of spontaneous conversations occurring in the markets, in the canyon, in the back lanes and community gardens, expressing concern for those who are struggling in this uncertain, difficult economic environment, and resolving to help.

The "City That Knows How" should be very proud of this little neighborhood. We're certainly proud to be part of it, and will give back to it as best we know how.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season,
Eric Whittington, owner
Bird & Beckett Books & Records

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The mission of the Glen Park Association is to promote the collective interests of all persons living in Glen Park, to inform and educate about neighborhood and citywide issues, to promote sociability and friendships and to support beneficial neighborhood projects.

GPA Board of Directors and Officers for 2010

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glen park association news

Glen Canyon and the Recreation Center are always called the “jewel of Glen Park.” We all see softball, soccer, birthday parties at the picnic tables, dog walkers, hikers and rock climbers, and hear the “thwack” of tennis volleys into the evening on the lighted courts. In the Recreation Center building, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, dance classes, and tot groups spilling into the playground fill the hours.

by
Michael
Rice

But, the Recreation Center building, dating from the 1930s, is woefully not up to standards for disabled access, adequate bathrooms, subsiding floors and more. The ball fields have rough patches from heavy use, and are soft during the rainy season. The trails in the canyon, while in the best shape I’ve seen in my 24 years here, are not well marked. Many are “social trails,” worn by use, not in the right location to avoid erosion or effects on habitat. Those are only some of the features that need attention.

The Recreation and Park Department has not been ignoring Glen Park, but resources are strained; staffing and hours have been cut. Volunteer groups like the Friends of Glen Canyon Park pick up the slack with native vegetation planting and maintenance work parties; the Glen Park Advisory Board has raised money for the Rec Center.

Now, as noted elsewhere in the *Glen Park News*, Rec and Park is ready to plan for major improvements: \$5.8 million for the Recreation Center plus \$900,000 for trails—a total of \$6.7 million from a 2008 bond—is allocated to Glen Park. Rec and Park staff has promised an active process to reach out to the neighborhood on how best to invest the bond funds.

These are the facts for now. Speaking only for myself, here some ideas for improvements to the canyon and the Recreation Center, based on first-hand experience:

Our two sons, now both married and moved away, grew up in Glen Park. We took them to playgrounds all over the Mission, Bernal Heights, Noe Valley, Glen Park and beyond. The boys spent happy weeks at Silver Tree Day Camp. We owned a dog for eight years, exploring the canyon with this exuberant Labrador. We learned about wildlife: tomato juice does help “de-skunk” a Lab. Now there are coyotes, although the only one I have seen myself was confidently crossing Diamond Heights Boulevard early one morning. I remember the trails around Islais Creek before the boardwalk, the creek bed overgrown with ivy. Not to mention the GPA meetings I’ve led at the Rec Center, creaky chairs and poor acoustics notwithstanding.



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My thoughts:

Renovate or add carefully to the Rec Center, for access, bathrooms, and to have a first-class multi-purpose area, easily set up for meetings, classes and neighborhood events. Minimize any new building encroachment on park space.

Renovate the playground structures with up-to-date equipment and surfaces. How about a sweeping hillside slide, as at Seward Street in Eureka Valley or Esmeralda Steps in Bernal Heights?

Do we need better turf and drainage for the ball fields? Fix the fencing along Elk Street, with more welcoming gates.

Do the tennis courts need new surfaces? Put in energy-efficient lighting focused on the courts, not the neighbors. The hillside below Elk Street looks like a clear-cut that stopped. Haul away or chip up all the logs and stumps. Replant

more native cypress and pines. Are the eucalyptuses safe from storm damage? Build a usable trail or walkway on the west of Elk Street from the park entrance to Sussex Street.

Questions to be answered:

How far will the \$6.7 million go for these many needs? What gets done first? Can future work be funded?

Will maintenance and staffing for upgraded facilities be assured?

How will the differing concerns of all of Glen Park, along with our neighbors in Diamond Heights, Sunnyside or Miraloma, be recognized?

Glen Canyon is not only the “jewel of Glen Park,” it is a jewel of San Francisco. The jewel needs some polishing. ■

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association

from the editors

With 2010 coming to a close, we took some time to thumb through the pages of the *Glen Park News* to reflect on the year’s events in the neighborhood. Our cover stories in the spring edition looked at new plans for a farmers’ market in the heart of our village and the ramping up of the race for the District Eight seat on the Board of Supervisors.

We know the outcome of one of those issues: Scott Wiener will be Glen Park’s new representative at City Hall. On Jan. 8, Wiener will officially replace Bevan Dufty, who has served the neighborhood well for eight years and now, termed out of office, is running for mayor. We’d like to take a moment to thank Dufty, not just for his service to Glen Park and the city as a whole, but also for adding his byline to the *Glen Park News* as an occasional columnist. We’ve already checked with Wiener, and he’s agreed to pen a column for us with news from City Hall.

As for the outcome of the other issue that landed on the front page

of the spring edition? Yet to be determined. The idea for a weekly farmers’ market remains alive, but efforts to get it going by last summer were scuttled after concerns were raised about noise, traffic and the impact on neighboring merchants and residents. We encourage the sponsors to work with neighbors in the coming months on a plan that can be embraced by all. A follow-up story is on Page 4 of this issue.

In that same edition, we talked to Ingleside Station’s top cop, David Lazar, about his law-enforcement priorities for Glen Park. Lazar, a rising star in the department, moved on to tackle problems at the crime lab, was promoted from captain to commander, and now oversees the SFPD’s Investigations Bureau. Capt. Louis Cassanego is now commander of Ingleside Station.

Our summer issue led with more news about the farmers’ market and the growing controversy surrounding it, and reported on a City survey asking Glen

Park residents about their parking priorities. The findings will be used to help the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency draft new parking regulations for the neighborhood. The upshot of the majority of residents’ feelings: don’t raise the price for curbside parking, and make sure the supply isn’t reduced.

The fall issue of the *Glen Park News* once again looked at the farmers’ market proposal—see a pattern here?—and looked at the long-stalled condo project at Bosworth and Rousseau streets. The half-finished development, a victim of the lingering recession, has frustrated neighbors, who see it as a bothersome blight. An update on Page 14 and a letter on Page 2 of this issue add perspective.

Looking back at 2010, Glen Park fared well, all in all, considering the lingering economic downturn. The businesses have been hanging on. City services—think Muni, and the rec center hours—have been pared back, but not catastrophically. We had another

successful Glen Park Festival, and who could forget the joy the Giants brought us with their first World Series win in San Francisco?

Looking ahead to 2011, much is in store for Glen Park, including progress on the Glen Park Community Plan, the plan to upgrade the Recreation Center, and efforts to develop housing on the BART parking lot. We’ll see how our new supervisor does at City Hall, and we wish him luck. It won’t be an easy year at City Hall, with a \$400 million-plus deficit that must be closed and political intrigue hitting full stride with a mayoral election in November.

But we don’t have to gaze into our crystal ball at the *Glen Park News* (phantom) headquarters to know that Glen Park, with its rich history and strong community spirit, will persevere and thrive. We’re glad to be part of the neighborhood and thank you for your continued readership. From our all-volunteer staff to you and your families, Happy New Year! ■

Leo Parker, the UPS driver who's served Glen Park for 22 years and counting.

Photo by
Elizabeth Weise



Leo the UPS Man: a Glen Park Icon

Glen Park has been fortunate to have the same United Parcel Service delivery person for 22 years. Many of us know him on a first-name basis. We greet him with a friendly "Hey Leo!" as he tirelessly brings packages to our doors. Some neighbors trust him so completely they've given him keys so he can leave packages inside if they're not home.

by
Ashley
Hathaway

Leo Parker has worked for UPS for exactly 22 years and aside from his first six months of training, his one and only route has been Glen Park. He started at UPS when he was 24 years old and was trained on and around Geneva Avenue near the Cow Palace.

Glen Park at that time was used only as a training route for just-hired UPS drivers. It was good for new drivers due to the challenge of narrow streets and a unique mix of various types of dwellings and commercial spaces. Dissatisfied with the

Geneva route, Leo found himself drawn to Glen Park and somehow, through a series of well thought-out tactics, he managed to take over the route entirely to himself.

How lucky we are.

As the holiday season ramps up, so does the volume of packages and delivery demands.

I caught up with Leo to ask him a few questions so that some of us may get to know him a little better and gain insight on his workload during his busiest time of the year.

A.H.: What do you like about Glen Park?

Leo: It's quiet, neighborly, kid-friendly and has the best customers.

A.H.: How Long Is your average day?

Leo: About 10 hours.

A.H.: How long is your average day during the holidays?

Leo: Around 12 hours.

A.H.: How many packages do you deliver on an average day versus a day around the

holidays?

Leo: On any given day, I'll deliver between 190 and 220 packages, and during the holidays I'll deliver up to 350 packages in a day.

A.H.: What is the largest package you have delivered?

Leo: A 122-lb mattress. Our weight limit is 150 lbs.

A.H.: What is the most ridiculous package you've delivered?

Leo: It has to be the NordicTrack exercise machine. There was a craze when it first came out and it was ridiculous! I was delivering six a day for about 30 days straight. Then there were all the returns. Ridiculous!

A.H.: Are you OK with all the dogs in Glen Park?

Leo: I love the dogs in this neighborhood. Many years ago I used to give the dogs treats—and this was before the leash laws, and a lot of the dogs would be off leash walking during the day. When the dogs would hear my truck, they would start running and chasing the truck. I pretty much had to stop the treats at that point.

A.H.: What is your favorite vacation spot?

Leo: Right now, it's Rio de Janeiro.

A.H.: What was one of the best gifts you received from a customer?

Leo: By far it has to be tickets to a Warriors playoff game!

I think Leo is a gift to Glen Park. I find him one of most reliable, friendly, consistent and courteous delivery people I have ever come across. Even my dog loves him—there are only three people that don't provoke her when entering our front gate, and Leo is one of them. ■

Farmers' Market Plan Still Being Cultivated

The idea of a weekly farmers' market in Glen Park is still very much alive, despite its promoters' fruitless efforts to make it a reality during 2010.

With the continued assistance of Glen Park merchants and Ursula Arvand, Martin Kirkwood is currently the primary force pushing the project. Kirkwood is a broker with Urban Green Real Estate and a Laidley Street resident who is very passionate about bringing a farmers' market to Glen Park. Said Kirkwood, "I have observed that most people in Glen Park, including merchants, want a weekly farmers' market—some don't care about the location, others have expressed that they clearly don't want it to be in a 'controversial' place."

Choosing a location remains the most difficult obstacle. The original idea, to have the market on Wilder Street at Diamond Street, would have required a partial-street-closure permit. In May 2010, the City's Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation—the entity that processes requests for street closure permits—decreed that more community input was necessary to move forward. The backers then withdrew their proposal.

With neighborhood interest still high, the latest proposed site being explored for the market is the BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets. John Silveira, director of the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association and the person responsible for developing new market locations, recently informed Kirkwood that a proposal has been created and sent to BART for review, with discussions expected to follow soon.

In recent correspondence to Kirkwood, James Fang, president of the BART Board of Directors, expressed interest and enthusiasm for the proposed project.

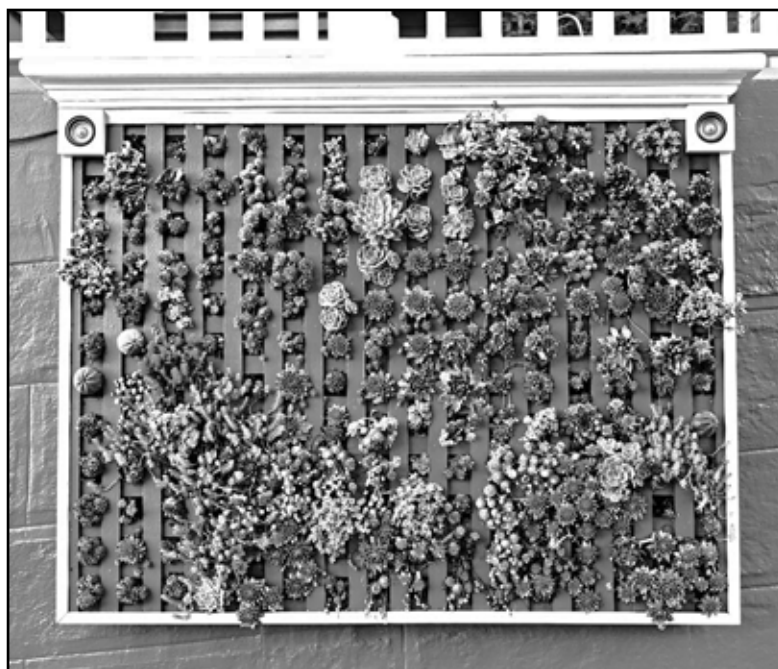
A community meeting regarding the Glen Park farmers' market has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 at 6 p.m. in the Glen Park Elementary school auditorium. For final confirmation or for more information, check the Glen Park News site at glenparkassociation.org or contact Marty Kirkwood at info@urbangreenre.com. ■

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The unique vertical garden is on a bright purple wall, making the muted greens stand out even more.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

Vertical Garden Brightens a Wall

When Adam Messinger and Mary Powell and their two young daughters moved last year from Sanchez Street to Randall Street, they went from being Noe Valley renters to Glen Park homeowners. They loved their new house—except for the high retaining wall holding back the hillside on which it sits.

Even the vivid new purple color scheme didn't help. When Mary saw an article in the *Chronicle* about vertical gardens, she realized what was missing. A casual conversation with her trainer led her to Kyra Jame, a gardener and designer who lives in Mountain View. Jame jumped at the opportunity, and now a cheerful collection of small succulent plants grows up that pesky wall.

Vertical gardens are unusual, but they provide an imaginative solution for creating green space in challenging locales. Locally, Flora Grubb Gardens sells custom- and ready-made ones. Perhaps the most dramatic designs are by the French vertical gardener Patrick Blanc, whose first San Francisco garden is being installed at the Drew School, at California and Broderick streets.

For the house on Randall Street, Jame custom-designed a frame measuring 5 feet by 4-1/2 feet, at a depth of approximately 5 inches. She built most of the frame herself, but had the mantle—the decorative board across the top—milled so it matches the ornamental woodwork over the front door, a steep flight of exterior stairs up from the sidewalk.

The materials are superboard, which is made from recycled plastic; lattice; and hardware mesh. It is all backed by roofing felt and—in a bit of improvised recycling—the plastic bags that the potting soil came in. The structure was attached to the wall with concrete fasteners. Everything but the custom-made mantle is readily available.

There are sixty-four 2-inch and 4-inch plants, a combination of *semperivum*, *echeveria*, *euphorbia* and *sedum* arranged to look from a distance like an abstract bouquet of flowers. The planting mix is quick-draining, and mixed with vermiculite to lighten the load. There is an almost unnoticeable automatic watering system, a thin line of hose connected to the sprinkler system for the plants in the two small plazas en route to the front door. Jame designed those, too.

The vertical garden has been in place since December, 2009, so it has endured all San Francisco seasons, including last winter's heavy rains. Jame has needed to replace a couple of plants that didn't thrive, and in the dry season she occasionally showered it with a hose. The only pests have been those banes of every Glen Park gardener, spider mites and mealy bugs. No human pests, though—there's been no vandalism.

Messinger, an executive at Oracle, and Powell, a lawyer at the Trucker Huss firm, are delighted with Jame's construction. So are their daughters, 5-year-old Sophia and 3-year-old Penelope. So are the neighbors. "I love it. I think she did such a nice job. We get lots of compliments," Powell said.

Park-Improvement Meetings Planned

Want to see Glen Canyon Park enter the 21st century? Then come to the first of several meetings to help the City plan what our canyon and rec center will look like as the renovations (finally!) begin.

Beginning this winter and continuing through late spring, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, will host six community workshops to envision and design a Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan.

Involvement of The Trust for Public Land is big news because it will bring "more money to put into the ground, which is exciting for Glen Canyon Park," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, Rec and Park's project manager.

Rec & Park and the Trust will work with community members and stakeholders to identify top priorities for Glen Canyon Park and develop a phased improvement plan. Over \$6 million in bonds has been dedicated to build the improvements that come out of the community meetings. Glen Park Association President Michael Rice addresses some concerns and possibilities in his column on Page 3.

Please come to a meeting and share your own ideas.

The first meeting is planned for Dec. 16, 2010, from 6:30–8:30 p.m., at St. John's School at 925 Chenery Street.

For dates and times of future meet-

ings, and for other updates, check the Glen Park Project webpage at <http://sfrecpark.org/glenParkProject.aspx>. Mauney-Brodek can be reached at 831-2789.

Care about the park? Come and be heard!

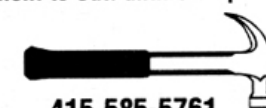
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**Mimi Dineen at
her Silver Tree
Summer Camp
teepee.**

*Photo by
Murray
Schneider*

Silver Tree: Strong at 70

This August, Silver Tree Day Camp, situated less than a half-mile from Glen Canyon's Elk Street entrance, celebrated its 70th year of providing summer camps for generations of San Francisco children.

by
**Murray
Schneider**

To honor this benchmark, Mimi Dineen, a seven-year old Silver Tree camper, built a fairytale fortress adjacent to Islais Creek—a teepee-fashioned dwelling she and her playmates assembled from willow, eucalyptus and pine branches.

Looking at his daughter's handiwork at a Silver Tree carnival, J.K. Dineen, who lives at 30th and Noe streets, said, "Where else can you be in the city and get close to nature like this?"

Not far from Mimi's hideaway, Jay Scott and his eight-year-old son, Timothy, who attended Silver Tree for four consecutive summers, admired Mimi's house, reminiscent of camp legend Mini-Ha-Ha's dwelling.

"Timothy keeps coming back," said Scott, a Congo Street resident. "He's a two-shower-a-day type of kid who's, like, 'let's get dirty and have fun!'" Mud-caked campers and their parents have been singing similar refrains since 1940.

Bonnie Cassinelli, who served as silver tree director for 22 years, remembers watching her son, now a San Francisco police officer, play at Silver Tree. "We called Christopher 'Creek Man.' He always came home muddy, happy and tired."

Lots of reminiscing surrounded Silver Tree's 70th anniversary milestone.

Max Deleuse, who lives on Staples Street, was seven in 1950 when he first romped around Silver Tree. "It was out in the wilderness," he said. "We'd come home smelling like eucalyptus leaves and creek water." Max's son, Angelo, 38, followed in his father's footsteps: "Silver Tree was rough and muddy. There was nothing boring about being there. We'd hang in the creek and then climb willows."

Fast-forward a generation or two and you get similar stories from Leigh Jacobson, 17, a School of the Arts senior, who lives in the Sunset District. He spent five years as a Silver Tree camper, became a volunteer junior counselor and, for the past two summers, served as a paid counselor. "Silver Tree means a nice place to get dirty in a busy city," she said, thinking of its 70th year milestone.

Lots of bugs, too!

Deleuse, who grew up in the Inner Richmond and became a jeweler, might have become a biologist if he hadn't favored gold wedding bands: "Silver Tree meant freedom to go on bug hunts. We found banana slugs, grasshoppers, even the rare San Francisco garter snake."

While Mimi Dineen was building her teepee, six-year old Shane Duffy, who lives in Noe Valley and who signed up for Silver Tree for the first time this summer, found out about bugs. "You get your hands on 'em," Shane said. "I love slimy bugs."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

SOMETHING TO *Smile* ABOUT

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Silver Tree

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Twenty children from last summer's adventures remember wasps, as well. Hiking along a trail leading to Diamond Heights, a troop of campers inadvertently stepped on a camouflaged hornets' nest. The wasps swarmed. Veronica O'Boyle, 30, the senior camp counselor, sprang into action, swabbing bee stings with medicated pads. O'Boyle doctored the children on the lower floor of the Silver Tree building, built in the early stages of the Kennedy Administration.

Such experiences don't surprise Ana Alvarez, superintendent of citywide services for the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. Responsible for regional summer camps, Alvarez noted, "Silver Tree is so natural in its urban setting. It is an amazing experience for children, a true gem, our flagship program."

And some of those experiences are the stuff of 30-year camp legends, according to Angelo Deleuse. "We had deadman's cave," he recalled. "There were rusted car parts in it and we imagined derelict cars rolling off O'Shaughnessy and hidden there."

Then there's the myth of Mini-Ha-Ha, the Indian beauty who once dwelled in Glen Canyon and who, Juliet-like, fell in love with Little Bear, a boy from a different tribe across Islais Creek. Sound a little like Native American Capulets and Montagues?

Just ask Aptos Middle School student Katherine Balestrieri, 13, a junior counselor for two years, who led her campers along the canyon bluffs last July, past Mini-Ha-Ha's rock, where the legendary maiden met her tragic end. "Running Bull rivaled Little Bear for Mini-Ha-Ha's love," Katherine told campers as they circled along a trail, descending to Alms Road close to where Mimi Dineen constructed her teepee. "When Mini-Ha-Ha couldn't marry Little Bear, she fell to her death."



This summer's Silver Tree Festival
Photo by Murray Schneider

Alex Serrez, 16, a SOTA classmate of Leigh Jacobson's, and a seven-year Silver Tree veteran who lives on Judson Street, added, "Mini-Ha-Ha slipped on her own tears." Grief stricken, Running Bull plunged over the precipice, following her.

"If you listen closely to the winds rustling through canyon eucalyptus branches," added Junior Counselor Alxis Aviles, 15, "you can hear Mini-Ha-Ha crying."

Silver Tree alum Susie Callahan, 39, an English teacher at Daly City's Jefferson High School, knows all about Mini-Ha-Ha and her craggy promontory. "My grandfather grew up in Glen Park and he took my sister and me to Silver Tree each day for 10 years," she reminisced. "I have a piece of Mini-Ha-Ha's rock on my desk at home."

Callahan, aware of how tight funding is these days, recently began a Facebook page to reconnect with her Silver Tree friends. Her effort will ultimately inaugurate "Friends of Silver Tree Day Camp," an endeavor that won't go unnoticed by Rec and Parks, which encourages such partnerships.

"It's amazing how many of us went into public service," Callahan remarked about her camping cohorts, all of whom honed their people skills during summer camp. "We became teachers and nurses."

Silver Tree, voted the 2010 best summer camp by the *Bay Guardian*, is special to Toby Wiley, 40, the current director. He's worked at Rec and Park for 15 years. Growing up at 47th and Taraval streets, he was a Silver Tree camper for six years, graduating to a junior counselor, then counselor. This summer his seven-year-old daughter, Margaret, was a first-year camper.

Looking not unlike an All-American collegiate fullback, Wiley stood vigilant one morning last July, greeting arriving children and parents. He smiled at Ella Dunnigan, who held her dad's hand. "You have sunscreen, Ella?" Wiley asked the seven-year-old. Counselor Leigh Jacobson doesn't need reminding about this sort of mentoring. "When we were campers, we all wanted to be counselors. They were our idols."

Ana Alvarez, Wiley's boss, puts her own spin on it: "Silver Tree will never go out of tradition. It's built on generations of experiences."

Dalila Stanfield, 14, Max Deleuse's granddaughter and a third-generation Deleuse family camper, summed it up best: "Silver Tree is all about rolling around in the dirt and just being a kid."

To learn more about Silver Tree Day Camp, call 415-297-0771. For more information about Friends of Silver Tree Day Camp, e-mail Susan Callahan at sooz1989@aol.com. ■

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Just steps to Glen Park Village, this 3 bedroom and 2 full bath 1920's house is quite a delightful home. The big, beautiful kitchen opens to one of 3 decks. The living room is complete with a wood burning fireplace, built in bookcases, hardwood floors and crown molding. 2 bedrooms on the main level and a master suite down

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Glen Park Author Will Read *IZ Too* at Bird & Beckett

Isadore Aronson's father is a foul-mouthed bookie and fence. His mother is a fall-off-the-bar-stool alcoholic. Iz' brother Vinny hasn't spoken in 10 years and resides in a Napa mental institution. Iz' older brother is a radical who is dedicated to fighting the system.

They all have lived together in a crazy three-story house in San Francisco's Sunset District, along with his mother's brothers, Runner and Turnipseed, and Iz' 100-year-old grandpa and his young nurse wife.

It's hardly surprising that the protagonist of *Iz Too* has to find an escape from all this. And it comes when Iz' mother pays for Iz to have some piano lessons early on, and Iz, lo and behold, turns out to be a classical music prodigy.

This is Glen Park novelist Robert Davis' fourth novel, following the mystery *Kamura*, the first Iz book *Iz* (thus the play-on-words title of the new work, *Iz Too*) and *Among the Lost*, a mystery about a group of Americans who travel to Cuba in the 1960s.

Davis is a retired San Francisco high school teacher, and has been a resident of Glen Park for more than 30 years.

His *Iz Too* is a lively, humorous, off-beat romp that uses San Francisco as its main backdrop. But ultimately *Iz Too* centers around Iz and his relationship with a woman reporter from a left-wing Berkeley newspaper who is trying to understand why this musical genius has "taken his own life."

Iz actually hasn't taken his life, of course. It's a mix-up—a distraught friend abandons Iz' car at the Golden Gate Bridge, and police think Iz has committed suicide.

Iz rolls with the musical notes, figures here is his opportunity to publish music as the tortured, dead artist, and it works. Suddenly, with help from his 350-pound gay Uncle Max, Iz' classical music is getting air play and newspaper reviews.

And the young woman reporter, Susan Henderson, becomes more infatuated with the mysterious musical genius. She listens to one of his works, and finds it is "one of the most beautiful

pieces of music" she's ever heard.

And Iz, 23, but now disguised as an old man, driving a cab through town, slowly starts to fall in love with Henderson, even though both acknowledge "how could you fall in love with someone you never met?"

You know ahead of time that if these two were ever to get together, it would be a highly unconventional relationship.

There are many funny moments in *Iz Too*. Davis shows a deft hand for humor. When Iz confronts the draft board at the time of the Vietnam War, Davis has his character tell the army psychiatrist that his health history includes "bed-wetting, homosexuality, cancer, tuberculosis, hemorrhoids, buzzing in the ears, sexual relationships with father, mother, brothers, and Martian midgets who follow me everywhere."

When reporter Henderson goes to visit Iz' brother Vinny in the Napa mental institution, she is greeted by another inmate who has somehow commandeered a doctor's garment, and introduces himself as Dr. Irving Roth.

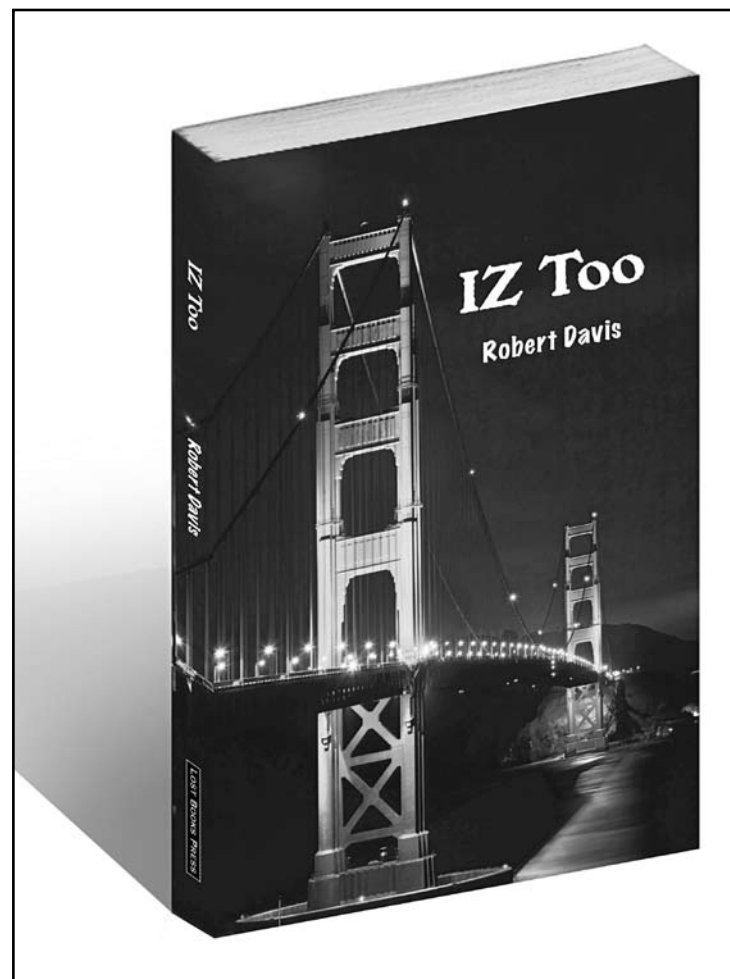
He tells Henderson, "You remind me of a girl I knew in college. I gave her a ride home one summer and she said, 'Irving, I want to make love to you . . . right now.' I pulled over to the side of the road . . . and we made love."

Then, tugging at Henderson's sleeve, the "doctor" adds, "I know a place we can go and no one will find us."

If there's a downside to this work, Davis struggles a bit with credibility in certain areas. During the period that Iz is "dead" and in disguise, it's hard to believe people he's close to wouldn't recognize him, including his father. And when Iz is arrested, it's even harder to believe that the police, of all people, could not see the 23-year-old behind no more than an aging beard.

And it was sometimes hard to believe that Susan Henderson's newspaper would keep pursuing a story of a dead young artist when to that time Iz had no musical credibility, nor had he yet produced any body of work.

But these are sins to be forgiven, for, all in all, this is an unusual, entertaining fun romp, and a solid read.



Author Robert Davis will read from his latest novel, *Iz Too*, at Bird & Beckett

Photo courtesy of Lost Books Press

Bob Davis will read from *Iz Too* at Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St., on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m. *Iz Too* is available at Bird & Beckett, and from Lost Books Press, <http://lostbookspress.com/order.html>.

David Kleinberg is a Glen Park resident and was a writer and editor at the San Francisco Chronicle for 34 years, including 14 years as editor of the "Sunday Date-book."



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Cooper's Hawk.

Photo by Joseph G. Moss

Bird Watchers Enjoy Hawks and Hotcakes

There was lots of tweeting going on in Glen Canyon on October 17 but it had little to do with BlackBerrys—the electronic kind, at least.

Preening atop blackberry bushes by Islais Creek, Robin Hermit Thrashers chirped a Sunday morning chorus, heard by 15 rain-clad birdwatchers who braved a fall drizzle to accompany avian admirer David Armstrong, 43, on his second Friends of Glen Canyon birdwalk of 2010.

Before they finished circumventing the creek, the amateur naturalists had spied 15 different bird species.

“It’s a good turnout,” said Kay Westerberg, who has lived on Chenery Street since 1988 and recently retired after 14 years teaching Hoover Middle School language arts and social science. “David knows a lot, particularly bird sounds. He isn’t too technical and he answers everyone’s questions.”

Armstrong, a University of Wisconsin French major, began getting excited about birds as a boy. He ratcheted up his interest in our fine-feathered friends a dozen years ago, after taking flight on his first Audubon adventure. A computer software writer, he has led canyon bird outings for eight years, honing his avian auditory skills. “I have a pretty good ear for bird sounds,” he said. “Their musicality and their vocalization interest me.”

And there is no paucity of winged creatures for recreational ornithologists to hear and see.

“The canyon has 100 bird species,” said Armstrong. “Thirty are residents, 70 are migratory. Whether they are domiciled in Glen Park, such as the Anna’s Hummingbird, or are just passing through, like the MacGillivray’s Warbler, Islais Creek—the second longest above-ground creek in San Francisco—serves up plentiful ripar-

ian vegetation and insect life to sustain them.

“The birds have a creekside habitat that offers them insects, pine nuts and nectar from flowers,” said Armstrong, “and, just as importantly, shelter and water.”

Sylvia Hochede, who has lived on Arlington Street since 1979, sighted a Scrub Jay devouring a peanut high above a dapper Black Phoebe perched on a thicket of coyote brush. “Scrub Jays come to my house and take peanuts from me all the time,” she said. “They’re really bold.”

No surprise to Armstrong, who watched the Scrub Jay circle, a goober clenched in its beak. “Scrub Jays always find peanuts,” said Armstrong. “Maybe they get them from AT&T Park after ballgames.”

On that Sunday, it more likely was Hochede’s back yard, since the Philadelphia Phillies temporarily clipped back the 2010 World Champion Giants’ wings in game two of the NLCS.

“I like raptors,” said Hochede, as a male Cooper’s Hawk swooped high above her, catching a thermal. Graceful, it zeroed in for a gopher that had the good sense to burrow beneath a stalk of thistle before it became an hors d’oeuvre.

Westerberg, a neophyte Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteer who visits the canyon a half-a-dozen times a year to watch birds, chimed in, finding something in common with her neighbor. “I like Red Tailed Hawks.”

Armstrong doesn’t underestimate the importance of Westerberg and Hochede, another acolyte Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteer. “Birds need to locate Islais Creek,” the birder said. “Volunteers bring daylight to it when they cut back impenetrable willow.”

Asked what single thing canyon users can do to safeguard birds, Armstrong didn’t hesitate: “Dog walkers should keep dogs on leashes. Otherwise they upset

Our Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Needs You!

It’s been almost five years since we took on the job of co-coordinating the Glen Park Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). We have enjoyed working with our neighbors and community to encourage them in every way we can to take the NERT class and to be prepared for emergencies ranging from a possible earthquake, to a gas leak, to who knows what. We also value the wonderful other coordinators who’ve taken on the task of leading NERT in their neighborhoods, each in his or her own way.

At this time, due to our personal, family and professional commitments, as well as Kincy’s military commitment, it is time for a new Glen Park NERT leader or leaders to step forward and try their hand at further progress for Glen Park NERT, beginning in 2011.

We are very pleased to announce that John Stauffer has answered the call and will be the new Glen Park NERT coordinator. John has tremendous hands-on experience, including Red Cross, EMT, and numerous other volunteer activities.

It would be great if another NERT member would sign on to be his co-coordinator. Current NERT status is the only requirement. The rest is on-the-job training, with help from John, Bonnee and Kincy.

The NERT course is a chance to learn a lot about how to react in an emergency and how you can protect yourself, your family and your community should disaster strike. It’s not a huge commitment of time but pays an enormous dividend for all of Glen Park.

It has been very rewarding for us to have worked with so many wonderful and involved people in our neighborhood. It has been a great opportunity to help lead Glen Park NERT. We will maintain our active NERT status and hope to see you at future drills and events.

To contact us, email bonneewa@comcast.net or kincy@me.com. Or, contact Erica Arteseros, SF NERT coordinator citywide, at sffdnert@sfgov.org. ■

Bonnee Waldstein and Kincy Clark have served as Glen Park’s NERT co-coordinators. For more information about NERT training, visit www.sfgov.org/sffdnert.

birds feeding and bathing in the creek.”

The post-birdwalk “Pancakes in the Park” morning meal wasn’t too far from the mind of Beckett, an Inner Sunset District third-grader from Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, the youngest morning bird enthusiast. Accompanied by his parents, Beckett made a beeline for Silver

Tree Camp’s picnic tables where stacks of Friends of Glen Canyon Park pancakes greeted him.

“So many cool birds, and who doesn’t like pancakes?” he grinned, as he wolfed down his eighth.

“One pancake for each year of his life,” agreed his mother. ■



Red Tailed Hawk.

Photo by Joseph G. Moss

A Day in Her Shoes: Photographer Amy Martin-Friedman

There's a Renaissance woman among us. Or, in modern terms, a whirlwind of talents, activities and interests who packs more into a day than most of us can in a week. Among her many interests, Amy Martin-Friedman, 40, of Joost Street, fuses an unusual combination of artistry and help for victims of domestic violence.

by
Bonnee
Waldstein

In the summer of 2008 she started to think about what legacy she would leave her two sons, Aidan, now 6, and Harry, 4, if something ever happened to her.

She had worked in retail fashion for 15 years in Chicago, New York and other cities. Before that, she spent two years in Tokyo, teaching English. Not as petite as the typical Japanese female, she felt starved for fashion, lacking the ability to buy clothing and shoes.

"My passion—or vice—is shoes. I love a beautiful, architectural piece of footwear. I don't ever buy a flat shoe. I'll be the only mom that shows up at pickup with heels on.

"But there's nothing fulfilling about making someone's closet appear better, except a little pep in the step the next day, something that makes you feel good about

a new outfit. I felt I needed to do more."

Martin-Friedman picked up her first camera at age eight and hasn't put it down since. She's not formally trained—she chose a practical college major, business, and a stipend from service in the Air National Guard helped with finances. Her husband, Eric, who works for the federal government, has supported her decision to focus on raising their boys and building her career as a freelance photographer.

Then once, in the middle of the night, the phrase came to her: A Day in My Shoes. "I want to get single women to pose for a portrait in their favorite shoes, and I want to roll it out for Valentine's Day, as a way for single women to be their own Valentine that day," [to show them] how they could conceivably walk down Fifth Avenue, as she had, with pep in her step.

Martin-Friedman slept on the idea for a few more nights and it came more into focus. How could her photography project also do good for the community and help provide the legacy she wanted for her boys?

The project began to take form. What about getting a perspective from women in their shoes who are victims of domestic violence? Through artful photography, she could tell their stories anonymously. Faces

would not be seen, only the graceful beauty of their lower body in wonderful shoes.

How she conceived and executed the project is pure synergy. With sheer determination and the help of Facebook, Amy found 25 women. Twenty of them would pay to have their shoe portrait taken, which would subsidize the portraits of five women who were victims of domestic violence. Then, by selling the portraits in various commercial outlets and forms, such as prints and cards, Martin-Friedman could donate the net proceeds to women's shelters.

There were times of doubt and pain: "All those 'No's.' Why am I doing this? I don't make money, I'm always crying, it's hard to hear these stories, very taxing on the heart and soul—but I was doing everything I loved: architectural photography, fashion, and serving my community."

After completing the project, it came time to pitch it. Ultimately, in May 2009, the show opened at a department store in the Westfield San Francisco Centre shopping mall. More openings followed—at Universal City on Valentine's Day, and most recently in West Hollywood. The show opens at the Getty Center in Los Angeles in December 2010.

The local shopping mall show benefited the Asian Women's Shelter of San Francisco. In only 18 months, Amy has generated \$12,000 in proceeds for differ-

ent shelters. With so much need, Martin-Friedman wants to spread the donations to as many institutions as possible.

She will be doing another "A Day in My Shoes" project in San Francisco that will debut in May 2011. She's seeking local women to participate in that series of portraits (see contact information below), and will choose a shelter to benefit from the proceeds.

Her older son, Aidan, goes to Glen Park Elementary School, and she has once again found a novel, unusual way to help raise money for the school. She once taught Latin dance class for five years, and through the Parent Teacher's Organization she teaches Zumba—a Latin cardio-fitness exercise dance class—on Saturdays, one class for parents and another for children. She asks for a \$20 donation but accepts whatever is offered. She averages \$280 each week and one Saturday she raised \$340. She also occasionally volunteers to do PE with the kids, since budget cuts have eliminated it from the curriculum.

Further afield, Martin-Friedman has a house in Baker City, in rural eastern Oregon. Methamphetamine addiction there is a serious problem and Amy goes there periodically and teaches dance to kids at the local school, so they feel that someone is investing in them. She is also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Photographer Amy
Martin-Friedman,
whose series "A
Day in my Shoes"
was shown at The
Cheese Boutique.

Photo by
Michael
Waldstein



Tuning In to the Sounds of Glen Park: Part II

In the Fall 2010 issue we ran the first portion of Dolan Eargle's musings on the sounds of our neighborhood.

As always, he encouraged us to encounter our own corner of this great city with our entire bodies, not to just glance at the reflections sliding past our automobile windows. He encouraged us to remove our earbuds and listen to what's going on around us.

Herewith the conclusion, mostly in the form of a series of questions for readers. We'd welcome answers.

As you saunter, test yourself on dogs.

by
Dolan
Eargle

There's always the test of distinguishing a big-dog bark from a little-dog bark, and angry barks from "let's make friends" barks and "I've been left alone and am rather lonely—anybody out there?" yips.

Walk near a playground, park, school or backyard that resounds with yells, screams, shouts. The recess schedule of Glen Park Elementary is clear from the screams of joy from there.

Anyone got a good way to tell happy from terror?

And the *wind!* By *listening* to the

wind, you can tell where it's coming from. Perched over above the southern end of the canyon is Dorothy Erskine Park, a little fluff of eucalyptus trees where the west-wind signal starts.

All summer—and much of the year—the winds come to us from the Pacific through the Alemany Gap. As the wind races down Joost and Monterey it perturbs and rustles the trees there. Then it starts to gust and form eddies that stir up those big tall trees along Chenery. Those gusts race across Glen Park and begin to stir up the trees along Sussex and very soon hit the tall pines and eucs on the heights east of Diamond Street.

Listen and watch. Sound travels faster than the wind. Watch the Dorothy Erskine trees, and follow the wind whipping the trees below. It forms eddies that whip up along Diamond.

Each batch of trees sends out a sound. Not only can you hear the wind; you can *see* it, too.

Occasional Glen Park events:

1. Every Tuesday noon, "oooOoo. THIS IS ONLY A TEST..."

2. A lightning storm: Kraakk! BAM!

3. On a northerly wind or in a dense fog, all these sounds fade to near silence.

I have a request for identifying some sounds—what about "things that go boomp in tha night?" (an old Scottish saying).

One is the great, metallic booming that seems to reverberate

from across Alemany Boulevard some nights, like some giant sewer covers being dropped. Another is the occasional sound of fireworks, and sometimes gunshots. The fireworks often seem to come from downtown or near the water; perhaps they're emanating from rock concerts or other celebrations? The gunshots are less clear. Sometimes they can be celebratory in the Mission, but other times not at all.

Finally, be thankful for the silences we have.

We have very few car horn-blowers here. Almost no one shouts. Some parts of the city suffer from those. And no loud radios blasting music we don't want to hear. We do have students with voices and instruments rehearsing now and again. That's our plus. ■

What is that
deep, metallic
boom that
sometimes
echoes across
Glen Park late
at night?

neighborly news from sunnyside

If anybody knows where this year has gone, please tell me, because I have no idea where it went. It just doesn't seem possible that we are one month away from the New Year, but it does mean that this is a time for reflection on where we've been this year, and where we want to be next year.

I hope that as you drive, walk or bike down Circular Avenue you notice a difference: The traffic triangles are weeded and planted, and the curb on the south side of Circular no longer is overgrown. The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association's Greening Committee, headed by Pat Moore, has done an outstanding job of caring for our neighborhood.

The SNA recently received a grant to work on the Monterey Boulevard medians. Within the next year you should be able to see the landscaped median in front of the Conservatory expanded along Monterey Boulevard.

If you have not been able to get to the Sunnyside Conservatory for the fall concert series, you can still get a CD of the individual concerts—Temescal String Quartet (1 CD, \$10), The Accordion Babes (2 CDs, \$12.50) and Teresa Tudury (2 CDs, \$12.50), or a package of all three (\$30) by contacting Friends of Sunnyside Conservatory at info@sunnysideconservatory.org. There is a postage and handling fee of \$2.50 for

individual concerts or \$5 for two or three concerts.

With the economy the way it is, neighborhood support has become vital to keeping our neighborhood assets open and accessible to the public. Plans for the 2011 concert series are in the works, as we wish to capitalize on the success of this year's programs.

Of course I couldn't complete a column without mentioning the World Champion San Francisco Giants. Not only were they the perfect antidote to the depressing national election news (from a Democrat's perspective), but they epitomize the community spirit that we have here in San Francisco. When the season started, no one thought they would go all the way, but they did. They relished the misfit title just as many of us in San Francisco relish the term "San Francisco values" when used by the right wing to make us seem out of step.

The Giants stayed focused, just as I hope we as a community will stay focused in the year ahead as we deal with neighborhood issues, city issues and national issues that will ignite our passions. San Francisco is home to World Champions and not all of them wear a Giants uniform. ■


Bill Wilson is president of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, www.snasf.org.



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Sunnyside Hosts Tuesday Tours for Prospects

These are busy times at Sunnyside Elementary! The first two months of the school year sped by, with students and teachers settling into their weekly classroom schedules. Fall semester programs with the San Francisco Ballet, Fly Away Productions, the Asian Art Museum, Kid Serve and the Contemporary Jewish Museum are well under way.

Students have begun working on “The Ray,” Sunnyside’s annual publication of poetry, prose and artwork published each May. Artwork from every student will be included in the final product. Fourth- and fifth-grade students will produce the final draft, seeing the process through from selecting submissions and layout design to final editing and printing.

Spring crops have been sown! Each class planted vegetable and herb seeds in garden plots during the last two weeks of September. The Alemany Garden donated planter beds, “growing” the

school news

available garden space on campus. A rainwater cistern donated by the SFUSD Sustainability Department and the San Francisco Community Challenge Grant program is scheduled for installation on Dec. 11.

On Oct. 6, you may have seen students carrying “I love to walk to school!” signs when they participated in International Walk to School Day. The event, sponsored by the Safe Routes to School program and the Sunnyside PTA, focuses on the many ways walking to school can impact the community at large—from improving physical fitness, to traffic calming, to environmental health. Both parents and kids had a great time walking; the traffic around Sunnyside was noticeably diminished, and our kids arrived feeling invigorated and ready to learn. Next semester you’ll see more Sunnyside “Walking School Buses,” and keep an eye out for our new effort to promote a safer school drop-off zone. We call it, “Stop, Drop, and Roll.”

Sixty-three Sunnyside students and their families and friends ran, walked and swam through the rain on Oct. 24 for our inaugural *Run to the Sunnyside*. The run, replacing a catalog fundraiser, was much more in line with PTA goals of building community and promoting health and wellness for our students, families and teachers. Proceeds support PTA sponsorship of classroom-supply stipends, science field trips, and programs that were cut from district and state budgets and now are funded by the PTA.

School tours are under way. Sunnyside tours are held on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. through Feb. 18. Reserving a spot is easy: log onto sunnysidek5pta.org or call the office at 469-4746. Log onto the sunnysidek5pta.org website or the Sunnyside Elementary Facebook page any time for the latest school information and events. The first PTA meeting of 2011 will be held on Monday, Jan. 24 at 5:45 p.m. Community members are welcome.

December is a wonderful time to show community support. Sunnyside Elementary and the San Francisco Food Bank provide bagged groceries to 50 school families each Friday, and the holiday canned food drive begins on Wednesday, Dec. 1. If you would like to help bag groceries or donate canned and boxed goods, call Sunnyside at 469-4746 or just drop by.

This time of year is Sunnyside’s “Season of Giving.” In the coming weeks, teachers will make up wish lists with ideas for books, supplies, rainy day games,

Glen Park Offers Robust Programs for After School

Touring season is in full swing at Glen Park Elementary (GPE) and every week there are common questions, such as, “Do you have an after-school program?” School is in session for six hours day, a situation that could leave many children with working parents unsupervised until the end of the business day. Fortunately for GPE students, there is a free on-site after-school program, provided in partnership with San Francisco Arts Ed and the ExCel Learning Program.

The after-school program is a critical component of the school’s plan for success for all its students. Run by the amiable Bill Burke (aka Mr. Bill), it serves approximately 120 children from 2:40 till 6 p.m., providing homework help and tutoring along with extra hours of art, music and dance.

With a diverse, dedicated staff of seven, students are in the hands of people who work hard on being mentors by building those relationships and connecting students with people they can trust and who aim to foster a culture of school success.

The after-school program offers rhythm, dance, visual arts, literacy programs and theater classes to students, most of whom would have no exposure to those programs otherwise. Friday clubs, facilitated by the program leaders Lydia

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

School Map

Check out the new elementary school assignment map for Glen Park on page 18.

Glen Park News Classifieds

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Sunnyside Elementary

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

puzzles and other classroom needs. The wishes will be posted on the board in front of the school office so families can provide an anonymous donation to any classroom. The SFUSD holiday break is Dec. 18 through Jan. 2. On behalf of the Sunnyside school community, best wishes for a joyous holiday break and a fortunate New Year. ■

Cathy Meyer is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School PTA

Glen Park Elementary

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Morris, Elena Royale, Maurice Brooks, Jairo Vargas and Jacqueline Joshua, are tailored to student interests, and can offer such activities as cooking, sewing, knitting, martial arts, weaving and chorus.

"We try to provide our students multiple opportunities for success, to build their work ethic and their confidence," said Burke. Like many of the GPE staff, he goes above and beyond his usual paid hours of work for the after-school program, coming in during the school day to volunteer in the upper grades and meeting with the staff weekly to ensure that every child gets the attention he or she needs.

It's a habit that has trickled down to the staff of the after-school program. Explained Burke: "Our goal is to provide better support throughout the school day, and we act as a liaison between the school and parents, given the number of hours that we spend with the children. We pride ourselves on the personal relationships that we form with our students. Many of our staff members have been here for several years, providing continuity to students as they move through grade levels."

The support that the ExCel staff gives to teachers and parents is resoundingly appreciated in their multiple roles. Ray Hernandez and Charles Burke are GPE parents who take advantage of ExCel. "Our daughter has been part of the after-school program for the past four years," they said in a joint statement. "She loves the various activities they offer and sees the staff as people who care about her. Because she enjoys the after-school program so much, most days we have to pull her away ... even after spending all day at school." ■

Shelley Smith is co-president of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization, a slightly different form of PTA.



Edyta, from the "A Day in My Shoes" photo series.

Photo by Amy Martin-Friedman

In Her Shoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

doing an "A Day in My Shoes" shoot there to benefit the local May Day domestic violence shelter.

Martin-Friedman is a one-woman operation with few resources but a lot of guts. "I work out of my bedroom, I have no studio. I'm scattered, my husband does all the books. I would love to get clients from this, who would appreciate having their portrait done by someone who is also working to help others."

Another major project in the works will be about men: In "Watch Me!" she will photograph great timepieces that have great stories. This work will benefit Doctors Without Borders.

Having moved to San Francisco in 2008 because of her husband's job, Martin-Friedman has already made her impact in Glen Park. She approached the Cheese Boutique about exhibiting and selling her work there, and set it up on the windowsill inside the front of the shop. "I go there all the time; my kids love the cheese since we've moved here," she says. "I also photographed Rick's cheese for him."

What compelled Rick Malouf, purveyor of fine cheese and delicatessen, to sponsor her photo exhibit? Without missing a beat, he explained: "Three reasons. One, what she's doing for violence against women, that's very important. Two, she's very good, she takes beautiful pictures. Three, she's a wonderful lady, she's life, she's a force!" ■

To contact Martin-Friedman for portrait sittings, visit amy@martinfriedmanphotography.com, or her website, martinfriedmanphotography.com, or find her on Facebook.



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Neighbors are relieved that a judge's ruling may mean the homes on Bosworth and Rousseau streets will finally be finished after years of decay.

Photo by Rick Mordesovich

Hope for Condo Project?

A San Francisco Superior Court judge has provided frustrated neighbors with a glimmer of hope that a half-finished

by Elizabeth Weise & Heather World

condo development that has become a neighborhood eyesore in Glen Park may finally be completed.

Judge Charlotte Woolard moved on Oct. 28 to allow foreclosure proceedings on the residential property at Bosworth and Rousseau streets to proceed, effectively blocking the developer's attempt to hold onto the project. Barring an appeal, the court action paves the way for another builder to come in and finish construction and finally put the long-stalled units on the market.

Notice of a trustee's sale was posted Nov. 11, and the sale is scheduled for Dec. 2.

Such a sale would allow the bank to acquire the property and sell it to a developer who could finish the project. That would bring relief to area residents who have long complained that the incomplete project—decaying and covered with graffiti—has turned into neighborhood blight.

"I spoke with many neighbors who are dismayed by the abandoned site, and are pleased about the prospect of this project moving forward," said neighbor Leslie Ren Terry. "People are gratified that our community had coalesced around this issue."

The builder, Burt Hamrol, of Customer Service General Contracting, Inc. and Hamrol Development Inc., has waged a court battle with the financier, Borel Private Bank, over whether the loan that underwrote the project was properly executed. Property records indicate Hamrol's companies also owe nearly \$50,000 to construction and electrical contractors.

According to the lawsuit filed by the bank, a four-building complex with eight condominiums at 408–418 Bosworth St. is about 70 percent complete. A two-building complex with four units on the Rousseau Street side of the development is about 15 to 20 percent finished.

The Glen Park Association, publisher of this newspaper, usually does not take positions on building projects, but given the rapidly deteriorating state of the incomplete construction and the air of desolation it gives the area, the Association on Oct. 25 sent a letter to District Nine Supervisor David Campos, in whose district the project is, urging him to work toward "timely action on this project, to assure a responsible party re-starts construction and completes the new homes." The letter noted that currently "the construction conditions block the sidewalks, and the site is subject to vandalism and graffiti."

Nearby neighbors have been very actively working to get something done and signed petitions encouraging the City to push the project toward completion. Campos signed a declaration in support of the neighborhood and submitted the petitions to the court.

"We were happy to have the support of our elected officials, in particular Supervisor Campos," Terry said. "In addition, we appreciate the added support of the Glen Park Association."

Property tax records show that Hamrol bought the lot from the Ray Oil Burner Co. in 1989 at an assessed value nearing a half-million dollars. Some years later, he divided the development plan into two phases. (For more on this topic, see the letters to the editor on Page 2.)

Phase One of the construction included the properties already built on land bordered by San Jose, Rousseau, Milton and Bosworth streets, across Rousseau from the unfinished condos. Those homes were completed in 2005.

In the summer of 2006, building permits were issued to construct four condominiums on Rousseau and eight condominiums on Bosworth, including four that are advertised as costing more than \$1 million each.

Efforts by the *Glen Park News* to reach Hamrol for comment were unsuccessful. ■

Howling at the Moon The Coyotes in Glen Canyon

There is one thing the dozens of Glen Canyon regulars agree on: coyotes in the canyon are a contentious issue. And that's about all they agree on.

The rest of their opinions range from fear to adoration, with some calling for complete coyote removal and others admonishing dog owners to keep a tight leash.

by Heather World Several neighbors say they have seen the animals in and outside the canyon—in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center parking lot, in the Sunnyside neighborhood. Joanne Cohen saw one at the top of O'Shaughnessy Boulevard.

"It was just sauntering through like it was headed to Starbucks," she said.

Depending on whom you talk to, there are three coyotes or there are eight coyotes. They are more aggressive in the past year or they have never approached humans unprovoked. They eat chicken heads strung from trees or they keep down the vole and gopher population in the canyon.

They leave domestic animals alone or they eat cats and once killed a grown black Labrador retriever and left its bloody corpse on the baseball field. "That one was dispelled right away," said Martin Hawkins, a Chenery Street resident who has frequented the canyon with his dogs for about eight years.

Hawkins is one of the dozens of dog owners who see each other nearly every day while exercising their animals. As coyote sightings and encounters have become more common in the past two years or so, the wild canines have been an increasingly frequent topic of conversation, he said.

"They've killed so many cats in the neighborhood, that's a talking point," he said. "We have a protected snake in the canyon, the San Francisco garter snake. The coyotes are eating them like them like M&M'S®."

Several dog-walkers interviewed agreed that there have been more attacks on dogs in the past year. Though none died, at least two owners reported frightening (and expensive) injuries to their dogs.

Janet Kessler, known as "the coyote lady," said that may be because dog-walkers do not follow San Francisco Animal Care and Control guidelines, which call for a dog to be on leash, especially at coyote feeding time at dawn and dusk.

Kessler, who has been observing and photographing the coyotes for three years, said there are only three—a mom and two 20-month-old pups—and they don't approach humans or prey on neighbor-

hood cats. She describes them as wise, intelligent and family-minded animals.

"People who live in the city think the parks and trails are just for them and their children," she said. "There's no feeling about allowing in nature."

She knows people have said she feeds the animals, lures them out of dens, makes them chase and bite dogs, all of which are untrue, she said. Her goal, she said, is to celebrate wildlife in San Francisco and foster coexistence with city dwellers. She posts photographs and observations on a blog, www.coyoteyipps.com.

Kessler said she knows more about the coyotes than most. "If you're out there two to four hours a day you see things other people don't see," she said.

But coyote paparazzi are part of the problem, said Thomas Hobbs, who has been walking his dogs, and more recently his children, in Glen Canyon for six years. "I've gone first thing in the morning and then gone back at lunchtime and she's still there," he said, referring to Kessler.

The result, he said, is coyotes that are less afraid of humans and more aggressive. Before, the coyotes kept their distance and tried to maintain cover, running whenever they saw people, he said.

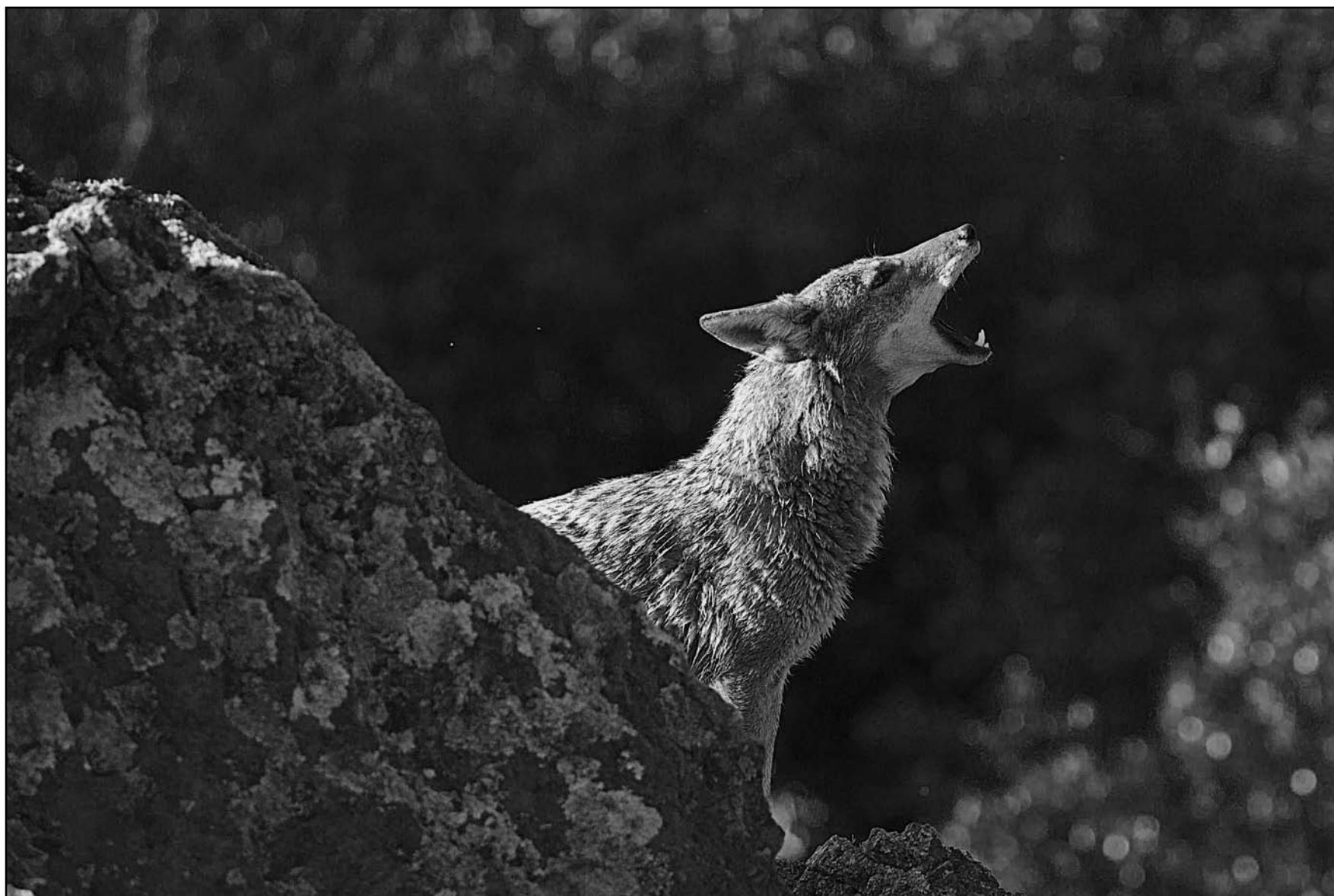
"That's been the thing that has changed," he said. Now the coyotes lie exposed on canyon ridges, unfazed by nearby joggers and dogs.

San Francisco's Animal Care and Control (AC&C), which keeps a log of coyote sightings, warns that anything short of actively harassing the coyotes causes the animals to lose their natural fear of humans. Anyone who sees a coyote close by is encouraged to scare it off—shake a can of pennies, shout, wave your arms or throw rocks, according to the AC&C website. "The goal is to appear threatening to frighten the coyote away, not to injure it," the site says.

Worst of all is feeding coyotes, or any wild animal, which is illegal and akin to killing them, said Sgt. Larry Johnson, head of field services at AC&C, who discussed the problem at the Glen Park Association summer meeting. Wild animals who have been fed come to see humans as non-threatening potential food sources, making them bolder.

Trapping or killing coyotes and other animals is neither legal nor effective, Johnson told residents at that meeting. Coyotes are among the most successful wild animals to survive the expansion of human environments, and eliminating

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



A coyote in Glen Canyon sounds off, unaware of the emotions its presence is stirring among its human neighbors.

Photo
by
Janet
Kessler

Coyotes

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

one coyote family invites another.

Still, some residents want to see the coyotes eliminated completely. "We see them more often and we see them closer to our house," said Sabine O'Sullivan, whose property abuts the park. Someone, she said, is feeding the coyotes. This past summer she came home to find a neighbor disposing of two chicken carcasses that had been stuffed into a nearby tree.

While she and her husband Eddie don't believe Kessler is the only person habituating the coyotes to humans, they do resent her self-appointment as the coyotes' protector. "I don't like the idea that she's the one and only advocate for the coyotes and everyone else is wrong," Eddie O'Sullivan said. "It becomes a bit polarized, and she gets quite angry and defensive when anyone says anything said about the coyotes."

Sabine said the increased closer encounters with coyotes has affected how much she uses the park, and she would like to see the coyotes removed from the park completely. "I'm all for respecting nature, but the reality is that we live in the middle of the city and there's lots of kids here," she said. "At the end of the day they're wild animals and we should be aware of that."

Others worry about the animals' increasing boldness, but like the coyotes. "I actually enjoy seeing them, as long as they keep their distance from me and my dog," said Connie Bauer, a dog-walking regular who echoed concerns about Kessler's impact on the coyotes. "Most of us 'regulars' feel that she is desensitizing the coyotes to humans since they now no longer hide when they encounter us," she said.

Mame Campbell, director of the Glenridge Co-op Preschool, said she hasn't observed more coyotes or bolder behavior, but she instructs parents to be vigilant. Last spring, when a coyote passed near the school while the children were outside, Campbell placed herself between the coyote and the group as the other adults subtly moved the children in the opposite direction. "The coyote was merely passing by, not approaching, but we certainly moved the children away in case a problem developed," she said.

Toby Wiley, who has managed the canyon's summertime Silver Tree Day Camp for the past two years, said the coyotes maintain their distance from the children. "The closest they came was to the other side of the creek where the access road is," he said. Camp counselors even include the animals in their introduction to Canyon wildlife. ■

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in glen canyon park

Many animals make their homes in Glen Canyon Park. One example is the coyote, *Canis latrans*, which is reintroducing itself into the urban environment after many years of persecution. Coyotes are a species of wild dog that lives throughout North America and Central America, and can interbreed with wild and domestic dogs.

Coyotes are expanding their range into areas previously inhabited by wolves, after wolves have been eliminated by people. Coyotes can live as pairs, usually staying monogamous for several years, whereas wolves need a larger pack to carry out their hunting behavior. Coyotes are often seen in our park eating animals such as gophers, rats and mice, which are overpopulated in the area.

Signs in Glen Canyon Park and the surrounding neighborhood instruct people who see coyotes in the park to observe the animals from a distance, without interfering with or feeding them.

Coyote attacks are much rarer than attacks by dogs, since the coyotes are reluctant to approach humans. However, attempts by people to feed the coyotes may result in the coyotes becoming habituated to people and more likely to attack humans and their dogs. More aggressive behavior would result from familiarity with humans.

Humans have been misguided in their attempts to control coyotes or eliminate them from habitats throughout the country. They are in fact beneficial to the environment by feeding on wild rodents that might otherwise overrun the parks and natural areas.

The Humane Society recommends keeping pets such as cats and dogs indoors to keep them from becoming prey of coyotes, whether wild canines have been sighted in the area or not. Domestic dogs, *Canis familiaris*, should be kept under control while walking with their owners in the park, for their own safety and to avoid unwanted interactions with coyotes who may be worried about another canine interfering with their den and pups.

During a geology walk in the canyon last year, the group observed a coyote from a safe distance as it walked down one of the trails near the seep. Some interesting vocalizations from the coyote were heard.

John Wall has posted several striking pictures of coyotes in the canyon. You can view them at <http://bit.ly/glencan->

yonpark, where other pictures related to the "In Glen Canyon Park" columns are posted.

Overall, coyotes provide a good balance to the natural environment and can live well in the urban setting of San Francisco. ■

Monika Lewis writes this regular column about our neighborhood canyon.



If your amaryllis looks like this, it's time to repot it and give it a rest till next season.
Photo by Elizabeth Weise

digging the dirt: news from the garden club

Now is a good time to think about holiday plants—and their life after the holidays. You have a lovely poinsettia for a decoration. Here's how to keep it looking good over the holidays, and some advice about bringing it back to bloom

next December.

During the holiday season, keep it damp (not soaking wet) and give it plenty of light. It should last a month or so. Then stick it in the garage until March, and water it much less frequently, say one drink a week.

In March, cut the plant back to six inches, and put it outside in the garden. Don't plant it in the ground, though. Keep it in the pot. Pinch the tips off so the plant bushes out, but stop doing that in August. Water it regularly. Now comes the tricky part, the part where every time I think about it, I think, "You've got to be kidding." In October, you have to cover the plant with a black plastic bag so that it gets no light from dusk until 8 a.m. No natural or artificial light should be allowed to reach the flower from the start of October until the plants start to color around the first of December.

What happens if you forget? It blooms later, in January. Go out for dinner one night instead of going home to take care of your plant, and it will bloom later because you turned on the light when you came in, or a neighbor's porch light shone a little too brightly. It's a challenge, and may not be worth the effort and stress. But don't fret. The green compost bin will see that it has a second life as fertilizer. Feel better already, don't you?

If you have an amaryllis as a holiday plant, you'll find that it is somewhat easier to get to re-bloom. After the holidays, repot the bulb, and keep it indoors, in a semi-sunny place. In summer it can go outdoors, in a semi-sunny location. Give it some fertilizer.

In September, the amaryllis needs a good nap before it re-blooms. Put it in the garage, no water, and wait 8 to 10 weeks. Cut off all the dead stuff, repot it again, and place it somewhere warm. It should bloom in 6 to 8 weeks. As with the poinsettia, it's a challenge, but the amaryllis certainly is more manageable than the poinsettia. Remember, the green compost bin is always an option.

A little advertisement: The Glen Park Garden Club welcomes neighbors who want to share their interest in gardening. The club meets monthly to enjoy presentations, field trips and each others' gardens and company. For more information, contact Sylvia Lehnert at sylvialehnert@gmail.com or call her at 415-469-7314. ■

Nan Warren is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club. She can be contacted at nanw90@gmail.com.

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Last Sunday of each month, there is a single combined service at 9:30am followed by brunch.

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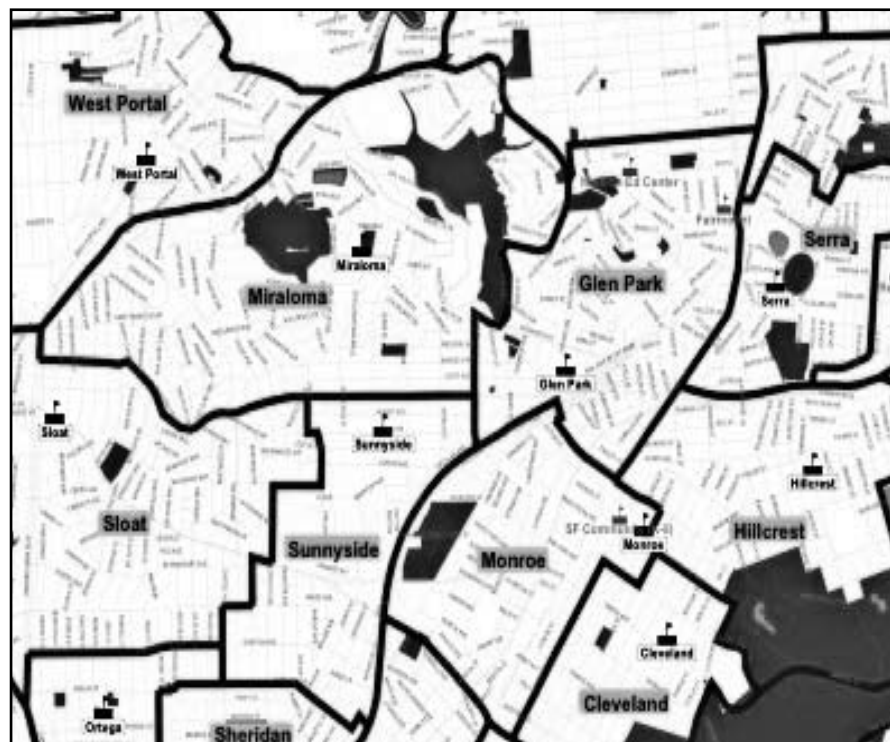
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Rich Gil, Glen Park October 2010

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SFUSD Maps Elementary Enrollment Areas



Map courtesy of San Francisco Unified School District

The San Francisco Unified School District is rolling out a new neighborhood placement system for the 2011-2012 elementary school year. This map shows enrollment areas for Glen Park, Sunnyside, Miraloma and other nearby elementary schools.

For student-placement details, consult <http://bit.ly/fDkcc4>, or Parents for Public Schools, www.ppssf.org. SFUSD maps are at <http://bit.ly/hKcPCw>.

check it out at the library

One of the most popular collections at the Glen Park Library is our DVD collection. Last month we had a huge change that affects all our DVDs, CDs and audio books—the San Francisco Public Library decided to float these collections.

by Denise Sanderson This means that if audiovisual materials are checked out from our library but returned to another location, the item then belongs to them. Also, if people return another branch's audiovisual material to us, it stays with us, even if it originally belonged to another location. This is exciting because it really can revive our collection. We sometimes hear that a commuter has listened to all our audio books. Now with items floating, they will have new titles coming in regularly.

To help you get into the holiday spirit, I'm listing below some books and music that are available at the Glen Park Library. You can reserve any of these books online at www.sfpl.org; you just need your library card number and pin number to log in. You also can come into the branch to reserve them.

Holiday Mystery

Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop: 'tis the season to be deadly; stories of mistletoe and mayhem from 17 masters of suspense, edited by Otto Penzler.

The Fat Man: a tale of North Pole noir, by Ken Harmon.

Santa Cruise: a holiday mystery at sea, by Mary Higgins Clark

Holiday Fiction

A Christmas Odyssey: a novel, by Anne Perry.

Christmas Eve at Friday Harbor, by Lisa Kleypas.

Nikki Turner Presents Christmas in the Hood: Street Chronicles.

Holiday Humor

I'm dreaming of a black Christmas, by Lewis Black.

Holidays on Ice, by David Sedaris.

The Dreaded Feast: Writers on enduring the holidays, edited by Michele Clarke.

Holiday Music

Songs of Joy & Peace (CD), Yo-Yo Ma & friends.

A Holiday Celebration (CD), Peter, Paul & Mary, with the New York Choral Society.

To round out the year at the library, we are hosting a Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2-4 p.m. We will have a drop-in holiday craft where participants of all ages can make tissue paper wreaths or needle felt an ornament. You can take your creations home in our new Glen Park Library tote bag, of which we have limited quantities. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

The Community Calendar on the back page of this issue has more information about library events. To learn more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library blog at <http://glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com/>. The library website is <http://sfpl.org>. ■

Glen Park Branch Library
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Wednesday 12-8

Thursday 1-7

Friday 1-6

Saturday 1-6

Sunday – Closed

Denise Sanderson is the Glen Park Branch Librarian.

Glen Park Catches Giants Fever



Above and right: Revelers celebrate the San Francisco Giants' victory in the World Series on Nov. 2.
Photos by Michael Waldstein



Wiener

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Club and rose to become chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, only to be ousted from that post two years ago in a successful move by former Supervisor Aaron Peskin and his allies on the city's political left to win control of the party's campaign purse strings, policies and power to endorse.

A San Francisco-style moderate along the lines of Mayor Gavin Newsom, Wiener shifted his political connections and organizing skills to his race for supervisor.

He ran against two formidable candidates: Rafael Mandelman is a housing attorney who ran far to Wiener's left with the backing of the Peskin-led Democratic Party, tenant activists and the powerful Service Employees International Union Local 1021, the largest city employees' union. Political moderate Rebecca Prozan is an assistant district attorney and former City Hall aide to Dufty, and to Willie Brown when he was mayor. Dufty endorsed Prozan. The fourth candidate, Bill Hemenger, was the political newcomer and the most conservative of the bunch who gained little traction in the race.

Wiener used his endorsements from Newsom, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and state Sen. Mark Leno to challenge the notion that Mandelman had a lock on Democratic support. He built a disciplined campaign operation—and a visible one. He made a point of getting as many of his bright orange campaign signs hung in windows as possible. He shared his campaign office with Proposition G, the winning ballot initiative sponsored by Supervisor Sean Elsbernd that will end the practice guaranteeing Muni operators the second-highest pay among their peers nationally.

Like the other candidates, Wiener knocked on countless doors, stood at Muni bus stops, attended election forums and made the rounds at street fairs to meet as many potential voters as possible.

Wiener also benefited from independent expenditure committees funded by real estate interests and business groups, but he was hit hard by other independent committees backing Mandelman. The onslaught of dueling campaign mailings and robo-calls in the final weeks of the campaign was head-spinning.

In the end, Wiener captured the most first-place votes and surpassed the crucial 50 percent mark when voters' second- and third-choice picks were factored in under San Francisco's system of ranked-choice voting. Now, he says, it's time to transform the energy from the campaign into being a legislator. He promises to be a voice of moderation at City Hall and is expected to not stray far from the political framework embraced by Dufty

in representing District Eight.

His constituents, he said, "are looking for someone who is going to focus on the basics of running City government, not someone who is particularly ideological."

Helping improve Muni, making better use of police foot patrols and supporting initiatives to create jobs will be among his top citywide priorities. The City's projected \$400 million-plus deficit heading into the new fiscal year that starts July 1 is likely to dominate much of his work at City Hall.

As for Glen Park, Wiener said a major focus will be on securing funding for and implementing plans to make the Diamond/Bosworth intersection in the heart of village easier and safer to navigate, whether on foot, by bike or in a car. The traffic signals need to be retimed, the sidewalks widened, the bus stops improved—in short, the flow of movement through the well-traveled area needs to be overhauled.

Glen Park will not be the only neighborhood in Wiener's City Hall portfolio. He also will represent Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, the Castro, Twin Peaks, Buena Vista, Corona Heights, Upper Market, Duboce Triangle, Mission Dolores, Liberty Heights and portions of the Lower Haight and Mission.

The district's political power center, however, traditionally has been the Castro,

Community Calendar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

4th Fridays: The Chuck Peterson Quintet.

♫ **Which Way West?**: Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music and more.

Dec. 5: Matt Eakle Band - groove/fusion with Matt Eakle, Joey Edleman, Alex Baum and Jack Dorsey.

Dec. 12: Free Dive - jazz/world/groove featuring Jeff Cressman, Steve Hogan, Cecilia Engelhart and Keith Terry.

Dec. 19: Buena Vista Jazz - a hot jazz holiday concert in the tradition of Eddie Condon's NYC nightclub in the 1940s!

Jan. 2: Avotcja and Modupue.

☞ **Poetry with Open Mic**: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. Featured readers, then open mic.

Dec. 6: Poets Nicholas James Whittington and Erik Noonan.

Jan. 3: Jeffrey Lilly and Stephen Kopel.

☞ **Literary Talks**: Last Sundays. Check store for schedule.

Dec. 26, 2–4 pm: "The Poetry of

Light." San Francisco Poet Laureate Diane di Prima hosts a reading to celebrate the winter solstice. Poets tba.

Special Events:

Sun., Dec. 5, all day: **CCSF Day** at Bird & Beckett - 10% discount on all purchases with faculty, staff or student ID.

Sun., Dec. 5, 2–4 pm: **Author Event** - Julia Bergman and Valerie Serer Mathes present "City College of San Francisco," Arcadia Press Campus History Series.

Fri., Dec. 31, time tba: A special **New Years' Eve** jazz celebration with Chuck Peterson and friends.

Sun., Jan. 9, 2–6:30 pm: **A Celebration of Emperor Norton!** Music, proclamations and more! Watch for details...

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

St. Aidan's, 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, offers a variety of programs that may be of interest to their Glen Park neighbors. For information, please contact the church at 285-9540. Ongoing programs include:

Food Pantry: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code. ■

the heart of the gay community, and Noe Valley with the 24th Street commercial corridor. Wiener promises that Glen Park will not drop off his radar. "I've developed

some terrific relationships with people in Glen Park during the campaign," he said. "I will definitely be engaged in the neighborhood." ■



Artist Vera Lowdermilk works on the Zen Garden Mural on Circular Avenue near Monterey Boulevard, part of a project by the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Department of Public Works to combat graffiti vandalism. The StreetSmARTS program connects artists with private property owners to create vibrant murals, a proven and effective strategy for making property less vulnerable to graffiti vandalism.

Photo by Bill Wilson

community calendar

Glen Park Association

Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of just \$10 support the Association's important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7-9 pm, St. John's School, 925 Chenery St. Agenda includes GPA officer elections and discussion of Rec & Park's forthcoming \$6.7 million renovations in Glen Canyon Park. New District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener will answer questions.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

The Friends sponsor a variety of activities to maintain and improve our neighborhood park and enhance our knowledge and enjoyment of the city's natural wonderland. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or richcraib@gmail.com, or call Jean Conner at 584-8576.

Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am-noon.

Next dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19. Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction are provided.

Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 am-noon. For the current week's meeting place contact Richard Craib, 648-0862.

Park Planning Workshops

Thursday, Dec. 16, 6:30-8:30 pm, St. John's School, 925 Chenery St.: First of six planned meetings to help the City plan \$6.7 million in improvements to Glen Canyon Park and the Rec Center. See story on Page 5.

For info on dates of future workshops and for other updates, visit <http://sfrec-park.org/glenParkProject.aspx>.

Farmers' Market Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 6 pm, Glen Park Elementary School auditorium, 151 Lipard Ave. Community meeting to discuss plans for a Glen Park farmers' market. Please confirm the date by visiting glenparkassociation.org or e-mailing Marty Kirkwood at info@urbangreenre.com. See story on Page 4.

Sunnyside School

School Tours will be conducted Tuesdays at 9 am through Feb. 18. To reserve a spot log onto sunnysidek5pta.org or call the office at 469-4746. Log onto the Sunnyside website or the Sunnyside Elementary

13th Annual Glen Park Festival Sunday, May 1, 2011

If you are a neighborhood craftsperson or artist and are interested in becoming a festival vendor, please visit us online at www.glenparkfestival.com. Applications will be accepted beginning December 1, 2010. Please contact Alyssa Helmke, vendor coordinator, at alyssa.helmke@gmail.com with questions.

tary Facebook page any time for the latest school information and events.

Sunnyside PTA Meeting: Monday, Jan. 24, 5:45 pm. Community members are welcome.

Food Drive: The school's holiday program to collect canned and boxed foods began Dec. 1. The goal is to provide bagged groceries to 50 school families each Friday. Donations and volunteers are welcome; call the school at 469-4746 or just drop by.

SFPD Community Forums

Third Tuesday of every month, 7-8 pm, at Ingleside Police Station, John V. Young Way off San Jose Avenue. For details call the station at 404-4000, or visit the website InglesidePoliceStation.com.

All residents are encouraged to participate in these informative monthly Community Relations Forums hosted by Capt. Louis Cassanego, Ingleside Station's commanding officer. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe.

Next dates: Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15.

Glen Park Branch Library

Denise Sanderson, manager of the Glen Park Branch at 2825 Diamond St., lists oversees a lively agenda of events at our local library. A full schedule is always available at the library, and all programs are free.

Following are a few of the events planned this winter:

Holiday Party: Saturday, Dec. 4, 2-4 pm.

Baby Rhymes & Playtime: Every Tuesday, 10:30 am. Rhymes, stories and fingerplays, for ages birth-3 years.

Preschool Videos: Mondays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14, 10:30 am. Ages 3-5.

Music with Jim Stevens: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 10:30 am. For children of all ages.

Tie-Dye T-shirts for teens: Thursday, Dec. 16, 4 pm. For ages 12-18.

Computer Training: Unlock the secrets of your library card!: Saturday, Jan. 8, 4 pm. For adults. Sign up in advance.

Chinese Lion Dancers: Saturday, Jan. 8, 4 pm.

Gaming Day for Teens: Thursday, Jan. 13, 4 pm. For ages 12-18.

SOTA Productions

San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA), 555 Portola Dr. at the top of Glen Canyon, presents student programs throughout the school year. Keep SOTA in mind for a rewarding and inexpensive night out. For information about shows, ticket prices and reservations, call the box office at 695-5720.

Forthcoming special shows:

Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm: Vocal and Orchestral **Winter Concert**, in the Main Theater.

Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 pm; Sat. Feb. 26, 2 and 7:30 pm; and Sun. Feb. 27, 2 pm: a production of *Ragtime*.

Sunnyside Conservatory

If you haven't yet visited the spectacularly restored conservatory at 236 Monterey Blvd., these holiday events may be your opportunity. For information about conservatory events, visit info@sunnysideconservatory.org. The following events are co-sponsored by Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

Recycled Card-Making Party: Sat.

Santa Claus Comes to Glen Park

Santa's seventh annual pre-Christmas visit to Glen Park village is planned for Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 5-7 pm, at ModernPast, 677 Chenery St. As always, Santa will be handing out goodies to good little girls and boys. The jolly old elf's schedule was still tentative at our press time—this is the first year Santa has to contend with new Homeland Security scanning and pat-down rules—so Ric Lopez of ModernPast suggests you call him at 333-9007 to confirm the date.

Dec. 4, 11 am-2 pm. Multi-media artist Monica Lee says bring old holiday cards, gift-wrap, calendars, magazines, and cardboard coffee sleeves to create handmade cards. Materials will be provided. Children must be supervised by an adult.

Foliage Exchange & Wreath Making: Sat. Dec. 11, 11 am-2 pm. Make a wreath or garland, create a holiday treasure. Bring clippings, cones, etc. from your yard to share and exchange, plus pruning shears, wire, coat hangers, ribbons, cones, etc. If you don't have a yard, come anyway. Suggestion for kids: recycle broken miniature toys or action figures for your wreath (and bring an adult for supervision).

Bird & Beckett Events

Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., presents literary and musical events under the auspices of the nonprofit Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project. Admission is free, but requested donations make the series possible, and your purchases are vital to keep the bookstore open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com, pick up a monthly events schedule at the bookshop, or call proprietor Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 11 am-8 pm Monday-Thursday, 10 am-9 pm Friday-Saturday, 10 am-7 pm Sunday.

Coming Events:

Three **book groups** meet monthly, at 7 pm:

Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month's selection.

Political Book Discussion Group: 2nd Thursdays.

Eminent Authors' Birthdays: 4th Thursdays. For these open readings, bring a short piece from the works of a favorite writer born during the month to read aloud.

Live Jazz in the Bookshop: A neighborhood party every Friday, 5:30-8 pm.

1st Friday of the month: Don Prell's SeaBop Ensemble featuring some of the Bay Area's finest bop & post-bop players.

2nd Fridays: The Jimmy Ryan Quintet featuring Henry Hung, trumpet; Rick Elmore, trombone; Scott Foster, guitar; Bishu Chatterjee, bass; Jimmy Ryan, drums.

3rd Fridays: A quartet featuring Chuck Peterson, Scott Foster, Don Prell and Ron Marabuto.