



Glen Park News

1930s Rec Center Gets 21st-Century Redo

The original Glen Canyon Recreation Center, built by the federal Works Progress Administration during the 1930s, was a centerpiece of the San Francisco Recreation Commission's Depression-era expansion of City park facilities. After a remodeling project that has kept it closed since October 2015, our rebuilt Rec Center finally will reopen in spring 2017.

The modernized facility will feature 4,500 square feet of additional multi-purpose space, a remodeled gymnasium with permanent bleachers, an updated auditorium and an indoor climbing wall—the first in the City's park system. It also will boast a kitchen large enough for classes and demonstrations, classrooms for environmental education and nature programs, and two exterior, handicapped-accessible restrooms that will remain open even on days when the Rec Center is closed.

"We've been looking forward to a renovated Rec Center since 2011," said Michael Rice, president of the Glen Park Association. "The community has been very engaged."

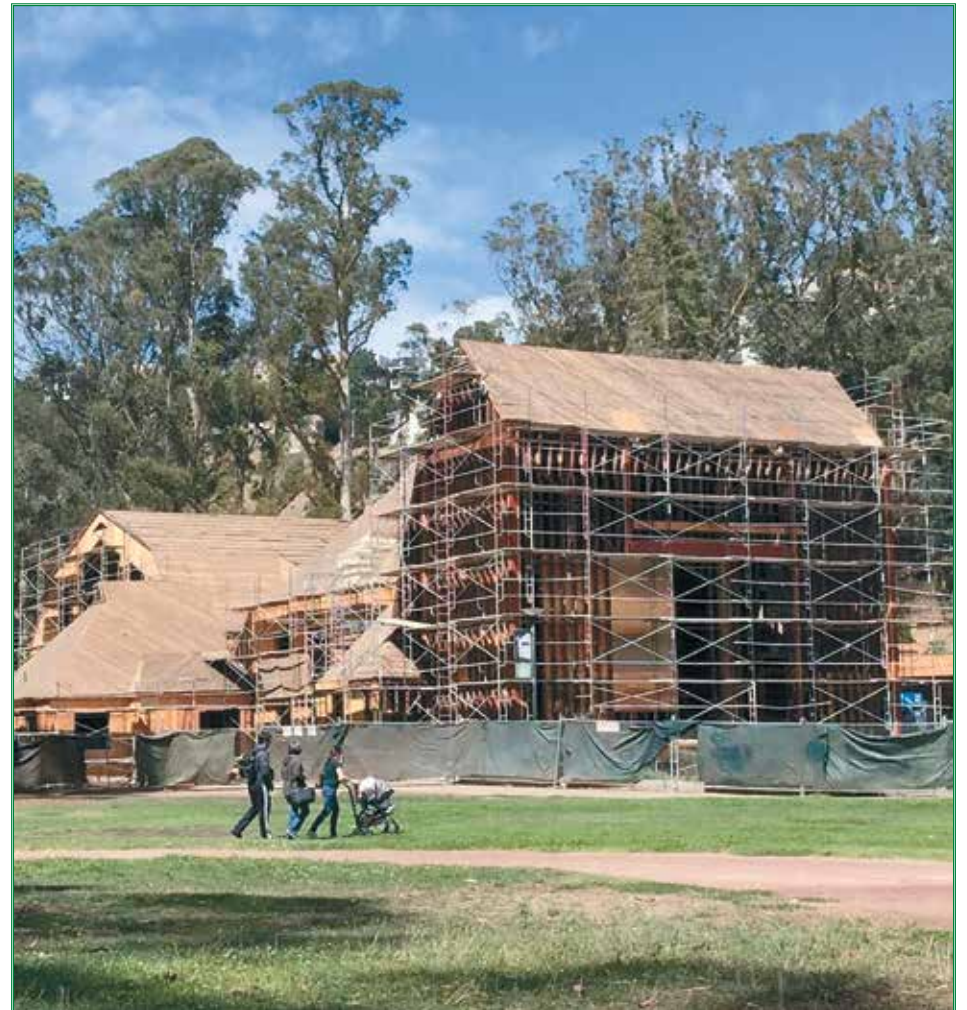
Rice referred to several community meetings held in 2011–12, citing numerous park-user planning sessions on a trinity of Glen Canyon Park crown jewels: the children's playground, which opened on March 15, 2014; the 2015–16 Glen Canyon Creeks to Peaks trail network; and the Rec Center, the final project to be completed.

"The renovation of Glen Canyon Rec affords us the incredible ability to blend recreational programming with the beautiful natural environment in a new way," said Phil Ginsburg, SF Rec and Park general manager. "These long-deserved upgrades will unite the recent work we've done on the playground and the trails of Glen Canyon to further meet the needs of San Francisco families."

Added Joey Kahn, Rec and Park's spokesman, "Glen Canyon Recreation Center will provide the same level of services as Rec and Park's other newly renovated recreation centers."

Not to mention the long-awaited resumption of pick-up basketball played in one the few remaining pit gymnasiums in California, where bleachers are not retractable.

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The construction of the new Glen Canyon Park Rec Center is nearing completion.

Photo by Stephen Labovsky

A Holiday Guide for Local Kids



A colorful wreath for sale at Perch.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

The grownups still may be fretting over the election results, but the winter holidays in Glen Park are a happy time for kids.

Hands-on preparations for the holidays begin at the Glen Park Library, which is having a workshop for making stained-glass ornaments out of tissue paper on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2–4 p.m. Kids of all ages are welcome.

For teens, there will be a do-it-yourself denim bag class, with Go Go Crafts, on Thursday, Dec. 15, 3:30–5:30 p.m. And for adults and older

teens, a how-to session for making holiday glass jar lanterns takes place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2–3:30 p.m.

Students with the City College Theatre Arts Department will present holiday and ethnic tales for children of all ages, on Saturday, Dec. 10. Later that same day, Canyon Market will celebrate its 10th anniversary, with holiday treats, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Chief Librarian Katrin Reimuller said that librarians will be on hand throughout the holiday season to recommend kids' books—for gifts or for

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GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday January, 26
7 p.m.

St. John School.
925 Chenery St.

Agenda:

- Annual Election of Officers
- New District 8 Supervisor (Invited)
- Expansion of Bay Area Bike-Share Program in Glen Park

GLEN PARK NEWS

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❖ GPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ❖

About 15 years ago, I saw an item on a Glen Park Association meeting agenda: Bruce Bonacker was to speak in opposition to a City project. I had a different position, and I called
by Michael Rice
Zoanne Nordstrom, the then-GPA president, and asked to also speak on this item. She welcomed the offer, and before that phone call was over, Zoanne invited me to join the GPA board.

I knew Bruce a bit from SPUR events, as an architect and Glen Park activist. We had a good debate at the meeting. If you are wondering, the topic was the design of the new DeYoung Museum. (SPUR is the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association.)

In fact, this encounter with Bruce and Zoanne is the reason I became involved in the GPA. In my years as president, Bruce has been a reliable colleague, serving on various GPA committees. He shares his experience as an architect engaged with City agencies on neighborhood planning issues, as a longtime board member of San Francisco Architectural Heritage and, in the best sense, as an all-around design critic.

Bruce was a leader at San Francisco Heritage, a preservation advocacy group, when a lawsuit over removal of part of the structure of the old Emporium Building on Market Street during the construction of the Westfield Center resulted in a multi-million-dollar settlement. The settlement created an historic preservation fund that makes grants to promote preservation projects in San Francisco. Bruce is on the committee administering that fund.

Bruce and I have sometimes disagreed on issues and strategies, but his opinions and counsel have been a big contribution to our neighborhood association for many years. He twice served as GPA president, and he is currently on the GPA Zoning and Planning Committee, its Transportation Committee and the Glen Park Greenway Committee.

I sat down with Bruce in November, and we recorded a talk about his career and engagement with San Francisco and Glen Park.

Becoming an Architect

"I knew when I was, probably, about

7 years old, that I wanted to be an architect. My uncle was an engineer. He had gone to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute [RPI], in Troy, N.Y., near Albany, which is where I grew up. I learned he could draw. At one point, I asked him if he could draw a house. He drew a perspective of a Cape Cod house. I was just flabbergasted. I remember this vividly, that someone could actually draw something that really looked like a house from an angle like that. I said, 'I want to do that.' He and my mother, his sister, said, 'Maybe you want to be an architect.' 'What's an architect?' I asked. 'Well, an architect draws buildings so they can be built.' I said, 'Someone actually does that?' So from then on I knew that's what I wanted to be.

BRUCE [BONACKER] AND I HAVE SOMETIMES DISAGREED ON ISSUES AND STRATEGIES, BUT HIS OPINIONS AND COUNSEL HAVE BEEN A BIG CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR MANY YEARS.

"I went to RPI, a five-year bachelor of architecture program. I was enthused about the International Style—Le Corbusier, Behrens, Gropius—important architects through the '20s and '40s. I still like Brutalism. The Glen Park BART Station is very much an example of that. I very much want to get that designated as a landmark.

"I got out of college a little bit late, because I was protesting against the Vietnam War in my fifth year, so I didn't get my thesis done on time."

Beginning a Career

"I went from college to being a VISTA volunteer [effectively a domestic Peace Corps—Volunteers in Service to America]. I had to raise my hand and pledge allegiance to Richard Nixon's government, which was very, very hard. [Laughter]. I was assigned to a community in western New York to aid migrant agricultural workers, a stream from Florida to New York. Some would leave the stream and stay in New York. What I was there to do was to assist people in developing their own homes through sweat equity, a program that was set up by a former migrant and a member of the local clergy.

"My job was to provide architectural services to help them design their

homes to fit their needs. I will say it was very difficult to do, because they didn't understand the concept that they could actually have control over the design of their homes, and I didn't have the skillset to know when to say, 'OK, I'll take care of that,' and when to delve further into what their needs would be, mostly about the interior space. Some were from Cuba or Puerto Rico, but most were a rural, black population from Alabama and Mississippi. They ended up in Wayne County, N.Y., between Syracuse and Rochester, near Lake Ontario, picking onions, lettuce, cherries.

"After my year with VISTA, I worked for the Wayne County Planning Office, reviewing the design of subdivision applications. These were all single-family, half-acre lots, and it would be my job to look at wetlands or soil conditions and to negotiate a better, more environmentally sensitive plan."

San Francisco and Glen Park

"I always knew I wanted to live in a city. There were five cities to consider. San Francisco was the last one on the list. I came out to visit a college friend here for a month, in August, and I decided it was just the right place I wanted to be.

"I lived in Pacific Heights, Russian Hill, Hayes Valley. Then I went from house-sit to house-sit, at no cost, and saved about \$5,000. I worked at small architectural firms. My friend from college and I bought the house here on Van Buren Street. Each of us had a unit. That was 1980.

"My interest in community planning came from my VISTA work, and my belief in Jane Jacobs' concepts, where people should have a little more say in what goes on in their own community. (Jacobs' 1961 book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, is still a major work on activism, preserving streets for people, and the strength of dense, lively neighborhoods.)

'So, of course, Glen Park should have a voice in how it's planned, in its architecture. I went to a Glen Park Association meeting, and introduced myself to the president, Nelson Combs. My concerns have always been around land use, design and preservation. Preservation wasn't a big concern for Glen Park because there didn't seem to be a major threat to the historic fab-

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❖ FROM THE EDITORS ❖

The Glen Park News is not a political newspaper—we don't endorse and we don't take sides. But we can't let the Nov. 8 election, and the race for president that led up to it, go unchecked. The ugly name-calling, finger-pointing and deep divisions have left many of us rattled.

Glen Park, like the rest of San Francisco, voted overwhelmingly for Democratic contender Hillary Clinton over her GOP rival Donald Trump. As a candidate, Trump, who was the Electoral College victor, ran a scorching presidential campaign unlike any other in modern times. His message of change resonated deeply with many, and left many others with dropped jaws.

On the campaign trail, Trump favored deporting all undocumented immigrants, vowed to build a wall between Mexico and the United States and to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. His campaign platform—and his choice of Mike Pence as his vice president—called into question the future of a woman's right to choose, and civil

rights safeguards for the LGBT community. He has suggested that those of the Muslim faith should register with the government, and that environmental regulations be relaxed. Of course his candidacy and election put left-leaning San Franciscans on edge.

Mayor Ed Lee has warned that San

ter potential threats to our residents and our budget.

Here's what we can do as individuals: People can—and should—have robust disagreement and debate over politics and policy. That's a hallmark of a free society. But we can—and should—remain civil and respectful in the process. Practice understanding and tolerance. Even when things seem bad, dig deep to find the good. Connect with neighbors; volunteer your time to help people in need or to improve public spaces; take the time to acknowledge others' efforts and accomplishments. Remember to breathe.

If you want to do more, consider making a donation to, or volunteering with, well-established advocacy groups that are

set up to wage legal battles and organize like-minded people on a large scale.

We are all in for a wild ride!

And on that note, this quarterly edition of the Glen Park News is hitting the streets just after Thanksgiving, and will take us into the New Year. We wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season, and a pleasant, peaceful, productive, prosperous and panic-free 2017.

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Francisco values may be under attack from a Trump administration, particularly if we hold firm to our status as a sanctuary city for undocumented immigrants—which the mayor and the Board of Supervisors have promised to do even if federal funding is put at risk, as President-elect Trump has threatened. City Attorney Dennis Herrera and Public Defender Jeff Adachi are crafting legal strategies to try to coun-

❖ GPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ❖

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ric of Glen Park at the time. That has changed, and Glen Park has diversified to a great degree, which is good, but also gentrified to a great degree, which I don't think is good.

"The assault on the existing fabric is dramatic, although compared with other neighborhoods, like Noe Valley, the assault on the existing fabric is not nearly as dire. We have seen an uptick in situations where a two-bedroom house from 1920 is purchased and completely changed in character. Some of that works very well, and some of it doesn't work at all, in my view.

"All of it provides for very wealthy people, so it's very difficult to maintain the diversity we have here. When I moved here, Glen Park was a sleepy neighborhood, full of older people, the children long gone. Now there are lots of children, which is good, but we don't have a lot of racial diversity, which is not good."

San Francisco Heritage

"I'd like to think I accomplished a great deal [on the board and as presi-

dent of San Francisco Heritage, the major architectural preservation advocacy organization in San Francisco], but it's reasonably well hidden. My interest in preservation came during college, but I have retained that interest as an architect, as well as advocacy for neighborhood 'emancipation.'

"The concept of architectural preservation and the concept of neighborhood conservation—improvements can happen on both. Communities shouldn't be stalled and maintained as they are forever. That's not my view of preservation."

Solving Neighborhood Issues

"I'm currently a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Network, carefully identified as individuals active in neighborhood conservation and neighborhood empowerment. We are not there to represent neighborhood organizations.

'Most of the other members are much more 'progressive' than I in terms of politics. I have a much more open view of how best to accomplish something. I tend to be somebody who,

despite the way I talk sometimes, looks for how to get to 'yes' on both sides of the issue. I argue very, very hard for the side that I'm on, but I'm willing to say, when I see the opportunity, 'OK, we can come up with this compromise and make it work.'"

The Glen Park Association

"I would encourage the Glen Park Association to sharpen its game a bit on how and when it involves itself on citywide issues, on transportation or housing policy, and make sure the Glen Park Association's position is well understood ... I wouldn't say 'feared,' but 'respected'... early on, and that we be pretty vehement about those things.

"One of the things I'm very happy about with the Glen Park Association and the board is that our people have multiple interests. They are not all there to stop anything at all from happening in the neighborhood, as many neighborhood organizations can be, as NIMBYs. What we're there to do is to maximize the benefit that comes from the change that is inevitable in the process of living in our society."

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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.

❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

If you've been in the Glen Park Library on a Tuesday afternoon recently, you may have noticed our two canine patrons—Donner, a Black Lab, and Casper, a Lab/Dalmatian mix.

Both are trained therapy dogs and are part of the SPCA's Puppy Dog Tales program.

Children learning to read face many obstacles, especially if they're learning English or feel shy or anxious about reading aloud. Puppy Dog Tales pro-

vides a non-judgmental audience—a therapy dog and trained volunteer—for children learning to read.

Accompanied by their human companions Rick and Susan, Donner and Casper have enjoyed hearing students from the Glen Park School ExCEL afterschool program read "Elephant and Piggie," a series by Mo Willems, Dr. Seuss and many others, in English and Spanish.

The students have warmed up to the dogs and come to the library

excited to read as well as get a few licks. One young reader diligently shows the dogs the pictures after finishing each page.

Promoting literacy and the love of reading is just one of our goals at the San Francisco Public Library. Another is to support the community and to encourage lifelong learning.

This library is your library. It is a "third space" for everyone to come and learn, share, discuss, enjoy and thrive.

Do you have an idea for a program at the library? Have a passion to share with others in the Glen Park community? Are you a knitter, crafter, calligrapher or other creative type who would like to lead a group? Want to start a neighborhood-based book

club? Been thinking of starting a conversational language group? Hiding expertise or experience that could benefit others?

If so, you should think about bringing it to the library. Shoot me an email (katrin.reimuller@sfpl.org) or a call (415-355-2858); we'll explore your idea together.

The library's program room is also available for community group meetings. Go to sfpl.org/meetingrooms to review the procedure and request a specific date and time.

And please don't forget to stop by the library and say hello.

Katrin Reimuller is the chief librarian at the Glen Park Library.

GLEN PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Tuesday 10-6

Wednesday 12-8

Thursday 12-7

Friday/Saturday 1-6

Sunday 1-5

All San Francisco public libraries will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26 for Christmas; Jan. 1 and 2 for New Year's Day; Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr Day; and Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day.

All libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

❖ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ❖

Thank you, Glen Park.

For the past six years, I've been deeply honored to represent Glen Park as the representative of District 8 on the Board of Supervisors. Thank you for taking a chance on me six years ago. Representing our district at City

Hall has been one of the great honors of my life.

Now that I've been elected to the state Senate, I will no longer be your representative in City Hall, although I will still represent you earnestly in Sacramento. With this transition in mind, I want to use this space to thank the residents of Glen Park for working with me over the years in our efforts to improve the neighborhood.

Together we have accomplished so much for Glen Park over the past six years. The community has been tremendous in supporting the renovations to Glen Canyon, including redoing the tennis courts and children's play area and now moving forward with the renovation of the Recreation Center. Those improvements have made and will make a dramatic difference to our beautiful park space.

It has also been exciting to improve street safety in Glen Park, including the pedestrian safety improvements at Elk and Sussex streets, the improvements to the intersection at Diamond and Bosworth (even though things have been a bit bumpy at times), and the coming changes on Bosworth at Lyell and Arlington.

Planning for the Glen Park Greenway has been another exciting, community-led project, which I'm

proud to have supported and to see moving forward.

I want to thank everyone in the community who has worked on the above projects, as well as other improvements to Glen Park. This includes all of the members of the Glen Park Association, particularly Michael Rice who, as president, is a tremendous neighborhood leader and friend to my office.

As I move on to represent San Francisco and northern San Mateo County in the state Senate, I will continue to advocate for issues that I know matter to our community—creating more housing to address our affordability crisis, securing more transit funding, fighting for healthcare access and better public education funding, and advocating policies to reverse climate change.

This work is more important than ever with Donald Trump in the White House and the Republicans controlling Congress. While I'm nervous about what the future may hold, I'm excited to get to the State Capitol to fight for our shared values.

I will miss representing Glen Park and District 8 on the Board of Supervisors. Though there is nothing like the direct connection of local politics, I look forward to maintaining that connection with the residents of Glen Park as your state senator. Please stay in touch with my new office. I'm excited to continue to work together toward creating a better San Francisco.

Scott Wiener is the state Senator-elect for Senate District 11, which includes all of San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County.



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Halloween 2016: A Spirited Gathering Delights Families



Chenery Street was once again the center of action for Glen Park's Halloween celebration. Hundreds of costumed-clad revelers trick-or-treated door to door at houses that went all out to make the annual event a night to remember.



Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

New Owners Take Over Hardware Store

Aaron and Simar Esquivel—college sweethearts, 28-year-old parents of a year-old daughter named Elia, owners of a company supplying construction jobsites—have become the last-minute saviors of a beloved Glen Park business.

by Gail Bensinger
Now, the new owners of Glen Park Hardware are working hard to get the shop restocked in time for the December holidays.

The previous owners, Hal and Susan Tauber, ended their run on Aug. 31 after 38 years as proprietors of the hardware store. The couple had listed the business with a broker, and had several lookers but no buyers. Then, a few days before they closed the store—permanently, they thought—Aaron heard about it from a vendor at a trade show in Las Vegas.

The man said he knew of some shelving for sale, Aaron recalled. The Esquivels went to take a look, and liked what they saw. After negotiations with the Taubers and the landlady, the young couple bought the business, including the afore-



Aaron and Simar Esquivel, the new owners of Glen Park Hardware.

Photos by Gail Bensinger

mentioned shelves and the remaining stock left over from the Taubers' clearance sale.

Under its new management, Glen Park Hardware will be open daily, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with shorter hours on

Sunday. The Esquivels and their two employees, Jonathan Travis and Pauline Wong, have been cleaning, reorganizing and restocking in preparation for the reopening.

Other plans are in the works: a website, more gardening supplies—maybe plants—and possibly a tool-rental service. They are considering stocking supplies for contractors, including safety gear, as well as facilitating special orders for internet sales. The seed racks will be resupplied—a unanimous request, Aaron said, from the Glen Park Garden Club members who have stopped by to say hello to the new owners.

One further change also is taking shape—remodeling. Aaron said that sometime early in the New Year, probably in February, the store will be closed for installation of a new floor and new, rearranged shelving that will allow for wider aisles.

Even before opening day, the floor plan was altered to move the paint station to a side wall and to open up the storeroom in the back for potential retail space.

"We are getting our mental timeline together," Aaron said.

Meanwhile, the Taubers are helping out—showing their successors how the key-making and paint-tinting

machines work, suggesting suppliers, answering questions and introducing them to curious neighbors who stop by, Susan said.

Aaron, who grew up in Pacifica and Stockton, and Simar, originally from India, met when they were both studying accounting at Humphreys College in Stockton. Their other business, called Diycon, supplies industrial materials to commercial jobsites. Simar plans to do the books for both businesses.

Simar's family owned a convenience store until recently, she said, and she and Aaron were already looking for a retail business when he went off to the trade show in Las Vegas. "Retailing has always been in my family," she said. Of the coincidence that led them to Glen Park, she added, "It was just meant to be."

Simar came to the United States from the Punjabi town of Jalandhar in 2001. She had learned English in India, but helped hone it during her high school years in Stockton, when she worked at a Jack in the Box.

She and Aaron married when they graduated from college, then went to Punjab for a five-day traditional Indian wedding. They both grin at the memory.

Part of the store's appeal for them has been the neighborhood. They live in Daly City now, but they hope to move to Glen Park when their lease is up. "We love the small shops. It feels like home," Simar said.

"Everything's here—the gym, the market," Aaron chimed in.

He told his new next-door neighbor, Manhal Jweinat, as they shook hands on being introduced, that he had enjoyed his lunches at Higher Grounds.

"I've been trying to eat everywhere in the neighborhood," Aaron said. "I do like to eat." ❖



Aaron Esquivel meets his new neighbor Manhal Jweinat.

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What the Nov. 8 Election Means to Glen Park

Glen Park will be getting a new representative on the Board of Supervisors, with Scott Wiener's departure to Sacramento to serve in the state Senate.

Wiener bested his board colleague, Supervisor Jane Kim, a fellow Democrat, in the hotly contested race for the Senate seat by Rachel Term limits forced out Gordon state Sen. Mark Leno as the representative for the 11th Senate District, which serves San Francisco and northern San Mateo County.

The new state Senate will convene on Dec. 5. Mayor Ed Lee will appoint Wiener's replacement on the 11-member Board of Supervisors. That person will serve for two years to fill out the remainder of Wiener's term.

Lee will be looking to appoint a supervisor who will vote with his moderate bloc, as Wiener did. Wiener first was elected to represent District 8 on the Board of Supervisors in 2010.

The mayor's staff is remaining mum on who will get the nod, but it is widely expected that the seat will go to a member of the LGBT community. In addition to Glen Park and a half-dozen other nearby neighborhoods, the District 8 supervisor represents the Castro—San Francisco's symbolic gay political power base.

Among the possible contenders are Alex Randolph, who just won a city-wide seat on the Community College board after having first been appointed to that post by Lee; Conor Johnston, an aide to Board of Supervisors President London Breed; and Google government affairs chief Rebecca Prozan, a former City Hall aide who previously ran unsuccessfully for the District 8 seat.

In other election news, former District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty made a political comeback with his win Nov. 8 over two other candidates for the District 9 BART board seat, which represents Glen Park. He takes over from Tom Radulovich, who did not seek re-election.

In the presidential election, Glen Park voted overwhelmingly for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. A look at the results just at the precinct closest to Diamond and Chenery streets showed Clinton leaving her GOP rival, Donald Trump, in the dust, 90 percent to 5.5 percent, with the third-party candidates picking up the rest. Citywide, Clinton garnered 85 percent of the vote to Trump's 9 percent. Trump, of



Scott Wiener, leaving the Board of Supervisors for the state Senate.

course, came out the victor nationally, picking up the most Electoral College votes, though Clinton won the popular vote.

Want to know how your neighborhood voted? Check out: www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-california-neighborhood-election-results.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris, San Francisco's former district attorney, handily won her U.S. Senate race against a fellow Democrat, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, to fill the open seat of retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer. Harris is considered a rising star in the Democratic Party and wasted no time going after Trump on such issues as immigration and cabinet appointments.

San Francisco voters also decided on 24 local ballot measures, plus the

regional measure to pump more money into BART, which won.

One that got a lot of notice was Proposition E, which requires the City to set aside \$19 million annually from the General Fund so Public Works could assume responsibility from private property owners for the care of all the 105,000-plus street trees and repair any sidewalk damage caused by tree roots.

The proposal won with nearly 80 percent of the vote. However, the measure contains a provision that allows the mayor to keep Prop. E from being implemented if he determines the City cannot afford it. Lee has until Jan. 1 to decide.

While city voters approved raising the real estate transfer tax on proper-

ties valued at \$5 million or more, they defeated a sales tax increase, which the mayor was counting on to fund homeless services and road repaving. Trump's ascendency to the White House also could put federal funding for San Francisco in jeopardy if he punishes cities that stand firm with sanctuary-city protections for undocumented immigrants.

In other local ballot measures of note, Lee beat back a quartet of proposals to rein in mayoral powers; bonds for the public schools and Community College won easily; noncitizens will get to vote in School Board elections; a new tax will be imposed on soda sold in San Francisco; more restrictions were placed on lobbyists; and extra funds will go to programs helping seniors and people with disabilities. Full election results can be found at www.sfelections.org. ❖



U.S. Senator-elect Kamala Harris.

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❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

Approximately 225,000 people in San Francisco were displaced by the Great 1906 Earthquake. Ada Frances Parker Stillings and her husband, Calvin, were two who suffered such misfortune. Family pictures show Ada cooking on a clothing water boiler in front of their damaged home. Like many others, the Stillings would eventually seek haven in the new residential district of Glen Park.

by
Evelyn
Rose

Ada and Calvin, a salesman for Singer Sewing Machine, had married in New Hampshire in 1904. She likely encouraged the move to San Francisco. When Ada was 10 years old, her family moved west to Oakland where, sadly, her mother died. Ada returned to New Hampshire in 1887.

We don't know the location of the Stillings' temporary housing; perhaps it was the earthquake refugee camp on the site of today's Glen Park School, or the area around Glen Canyon Park. Yet in 1908, Ada and Calvin constructed a classic Folk Victorian Farmhouse-style home at 2 Midway St. (today, 95 Nordhoff St.), at the crossing of the newly designated Stillings Avenue.

Glen Park was booming, not only with new residents but also the refuse they discarded. Fed up, 40 civic-minded women gathered to organize the Glen Park Outdoor Art League in February 1908, the first of its kind in San Francisco. They strove to make Glen Park a "model suburb," installing garbage cans and planting greenery throughout the neighborhood.

They next set their sights on City services. As the League's president, Ada worked to establish the first branch of the San Francisco Public Library



Ada Frances Parker Stillings (right) cooking in front of her earthquake-damaged San Francisco home, 1906.

Photos courtesy of the Ada Frances Parker family

in Glen Park, in September 1908—Delivery Station F was located in Mary Bridget Mullally Hamilton's dry goods store at 2975 Diamond St., the site of today's BART station.

They raised funds for Glen Park's first volunteer fire department (on Diamond Street near Conrad Street), successfully petitioned the City to

extend gas lines to Glen Park, and organized work parties followed by New England-style boiled dinners to make Lippard Street safe and passable.

By 1910, Calvin had become a manager at Singer Sewing Machines in Tacoma, Wash. Following their divorce there, Ada would continue her civic service. As a Tacoma police matron, she singlehandedly captured an escaped convict.

She then became a nurse and later returned to San Francisco where, in 1930, she was working at Laguna Honda Hospital. By 1940, Ada had moved to Silver City, NM, where she ran a retirement home for cowboys until she was 86.

Ada Frances Parker Stillings again returned to San Francisco. She died in 1967 at age 97. She is buried next to her mother in Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery. A life well lived! We honor Ada as one of Glen Park's first civic activists in a history of many. ❖

Evelyn Rose is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neigh-

borhoods. To learn more, visit www.GlenParkHistory.org. The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project meets every other (even) month and offers history walks. Join the mailing list: GlenParkHistory@gmail.com.



The Stillings home at 95 Nordhoff Street, circa 1915.



Ada standing on the porch of her Nordhoff Street home, circa 1915.

Team Up to Be Prepared for the Big One

You've heard the question a million times: "Are you ready for the Big One?" If your answer is no, you're taking a big gamble. If you say yes, chances are you could be doing more—a lot more—to prepare for the next earthquake or other major disaster.

by **Bonnee Waldstein** Recent forecasts of activity on two nearby faults, the Hayward and the Rodgers Creek, predict catastrophe if and when the epicenter of the next earthquake happens to be beneath San Pablo Bay, where those two faults meet. If the faults are physically connected, which is suspected but not proven, they would encompass 99 miles, from Healdsburg in the north to Fremont in the south. This is important because the longer the fault, the more widespread the damage and loss of life and injury.

This scenario earthquake ruptures 51 miles of the Hayward fault from San Pablo Bay to Fremont and 49 miles of the Rodgers Creek fault from San Pablo Bay to north of Santa Rosa.

Seismologists say the odds are increasing that more destructive earthquakes will hit the Bay Area within the next 30 years.

There's now a 72 percent probability—which means the odds are nearly 3 to 1—that one or more quakes with a magnitude of 6.7 or greater will strike along one of the region's faults in the San Andreas Fault system before 2043, the San Francisco Chronicle reported recently.

After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, many San Francisco residents spontaneously got together and helped the Fire Department any way they could, particularly in the hard-hit Marina District. It became apparent that the city needed a network of organized and trained volunteers, spanning all neighborhoods, who would be ready and able to assist the Fire Department the next time.

The result: NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) was born. The Fire Department established the program to train San Francisco residents to be prepared to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a major disaster.

Those who go through the program are certified to do triage, damage assessment, basic search and rescue and more. They can join their neighborhood NERT team and take advanced



courses such as ham radio communications. Or, they can just take the knowledge they've gained to be better prepared to survive on their own.

In Glen Park, 359 residents have been trained since NERT's inception. Today 28 of those trained neighbors are actively involved, attending meetings, participating in periodic drills and visiting the local fire station.

Susanna Russo has been the Glen Park NERT coordinator since 2010. A major role, she said, is to make sure that people—whether trained by NERT or not—understand the need for emergency response preparedness: "I tell people about the program and encourage those who've had the training to be recertified, get more training and get more involved," she said.

Getting the word out takes many forms. For NERT members, there is an official website. Reminders about training schedules and other NERT activities also are posted on the Glen Park Association website.

Dwight Smith, a trained NERT member since 2006, reflected on the effect the training has had on him: "It's given me a way to think about how to be prepared going into an earthquake or other event; I've done some planning and preparation. We have several cats, and I always make sure we have extra food stored.

"I learn a lot from the drills and exercises and always want to learn more," he said. "NERT has also brought me closer to people in the neighborhood."

A general meeting was held at the Glen Park Library on Sept. 21. Both trained NERT members (11 people)

dispatch NERT members throughout the neighborhood to perform damage assessment, light search and rescue, and other tasks.

There's a lot of talent to harness in Glen Park when needed. Those who attended the meeting included a physician, an emergency medical technician, a cartographer and a construction professional. People expressed concerns about checking in on the elderly, frail and babies and children. The NERT team will address those issues in the future.

Another project, which will require a lot of volunteer help going block by block, is to develop a map of Glen Park that features structures, facilities, hazards and resources. In an emergency this map would provide guidance and information to NERT volunteers as they scour the neighborhood after a disaster.

The structure of the NERT training, topics covered, schedule of classes, how to sign up, and other details are explained at the NERT website: sf-fire.org/neighborhood-emergency-response-team-nert ❖

Thanks to Martha Raup for supplying valuable information about the meeting at the Glen Park Library.

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✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

Why plant more trees? They are beautiful—for me that's enough.

But there are practical reasons to keep planting trees. Perhaps you have experienced a sense of calm after walk-

ing down a shaded tree-lined street or entering a tree-filled garden.

Trees clean the air, regulate the temperature and reduce the urban heat-island effect. They absorb tons of carbon (a greenhouse gas), capture fine-particle pollution and produce oxygen. Take a deep, sweet breath!

Trees also capture rainwater and help prevent storm-water runoff. They provide habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, small animals, lichens, mosses and orchids. And they even raise your property values.

We need to make sure that our “urban forest”—that is, all the trees in San Francisco, in gardens, parks, schools and sidewalks—are cared for and protected.

I'd like to share a few suggestions for small trees for gardens and the sidewalk, with resources for more help.



Yulan Magnolia

Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Choosing a Tree

The most important first step is to select the right type of tree. The trees that are in trouble in our sidewalks and gardens are usually the wrong tree type, planted in the wrong location, then never pruned or watered. The roots are ripping up the sidewalk or heading into the drains, and the tree, aged and fragile, seems dangerous.

But if you select the right kind of tree for your location, this will never happen. Trees are pretty easy. Pick the right type for your location, and all it will need is water for a few years, some pruning to control and shape its growth, and that's it.

Both Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) and Sunset magazine have useful lists of trees. The FUF list can be sorted by shape, height and width, color, flowers, fruit, drought tolerance, and sun versus shade. The Sunset website (www.sunset.com/garden/flowers-plants/types-of-trees) provides lists of trees with zone information and descriptions. SFEnvironment.org has a short list of trees sorted by size. My selections are based on these lists and the experience of Glen Park Garden Club members.

Japanese Maples: Excellent small trees for the garden. Airy and delicate form, sometimes weeping. Deeply dissected leaves in brilliant colors. Maples like water and do not tolerate windy, hot conditions. These three varieties thrive in local gardens:

Dancing Peacock Fernleaf Maple (*Acer japonicum aconitifolium*). Stunning. Small, slow growing to 15–20 ft. Open, lacy branches, green leaves shaped like peacock tails that turn all colors in the fall. Easy to grow.

Acer palmatum “Tobiosho.” Fuller and more upright. Lovely leaf form. 15 ft.

Acer palmatum matsumurae “Burgundy Lace.” Dwarf, weeping branches, red cut leaves. Forms a red mound no more than 4 ft. high. Hardy.

Magnolias. Excellent for Glen Park. Large, often fragrant blooms. Visit the San Francisco Botanical Garden in

early spring to investigate their world-renowned collection of magnolias that thrive in our climate. Then plant one!

Southern Magnolia “Little Gem” (*Magnolia grandiflora* “Little Gem”). 10–25 ft., large white flowers, evergreen.

Magnolia soulangiana. Deciduous, large saucer-shaped pink or white flowers. 25 ft.

Sweet Michelia “Silver Cloud” (*Michelia doltsopa* “Silver Cloud”). Heavily scented white flowers. 15 ft. Tolerant of poor conditions.

Yulan Magnolia (*Magnolia denu-data*). Good form, thick curling branches covered in luscious white flowers in spring. Good for gardens, sensitive to frost.

Other useful trees:

Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus marina*). Rough red bark, thick green foliage, pendulous attractive flowers, bright red berries. Mid-size, compact, tough.

Bronze Loquat (*Eriobotrya deflexa*). Small, spreading, dense white flowers in spring, new leaf growth is a deep shiny bronze color. Striking, easy, not messy.

Flowering cherries and plums. There are many varieties of these trees, and some of the smaller, more compact varieties make good street trees. Usually heavy bloomers, deciduous. Excellent small garden trees, but need regular water.

Resources.

Sunset Western Garden Guide. Lists of trees organized by size and environmental requirements. Photos and cultivation information.

The Hidden Life of Trees, by Peter Wollleben. Fascinating study of tree intelligence.

San Francisco Botanical Garden. Golden Gate Park, near Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.

SFEnvironment.org. Search for “Trees.” Worth it because of the frank comments.

Friends of the Urban Forest (www.fuf.net). Check out “Resources & References,” with instructions on how to plant and nurture a street tree.

FlowerCraft Garden Center, 550 Bayshore Blvd., has maples, cherries and plums.

Flora Grubb Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Ave., Japanese maples, palms and lesser known varieties. ❖

Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. If you are interested in joining the club, contact her at kay.estey@gmail.com.



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Volunteers Work to Save Damselfly in Distress

The graceful, iridescent and exceedingly rare San Francisco forktailed damselfly once thrived in Glen Canyon.

But the insects, known formally as *Ischnura gemina*, went extinct due to the construction on Diamond Heights

by Murray Schneider and the loss of much of the clear flowing water in Islais Creek that the damsels require.

Reintroduced in 2006, the endangered insects, with characteristic bars of teal on their long, elegant tails, are clinging to survival, existing in tiny populations in a few areas within San Francisco.

Fewer than 10 breeding populations are left, all threatened and all within the city limits. Where once rains and watershed would have scoured the creek clean, now human shoulders, shovels and hard work are all that stands between a healthy habitat for these blue-green beauties, and re-extinction.

That work was carried out in October by a stalwart band of long-standing Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteers. Carrying handsaws, shovels and loppers, the small team of park-lovers hiked uphill, scaling the eastern slope of Glen Canyon on a fall day that settled into the high 70s. Their destination lay just below George Christopher Playground, at a hillside ditch caked with sludge—pounds of it.

Pancaked mud prevented water from flowing through a culvert vital to the damsels, which require permanent freshwater marshes or open aquatic habitat for survival.

Led by Recreation and Park gardener Shelley Arnold, the three park volunteers reached the gully, cloaked in arroyo willow and hedged by California and Himalayan blackberry. The braided quilt of canyon foliage obstructed water in the clogged trough from running its course.

As stewards of the canyon, Rec and Park's Natural Areas Program gardeners annually remove plant growth and silt in drainage channels such as this one. Their immediate task was to remove overhanging branches and unclog the channel. That work benefits the canyon's tiny population of the endangered damselflies—at risk of extinction in the wild—and gives them a better chance of survival.



Glen Canyon has a tiny population of the rare San Francisco forktailed damselfly. Photo by Marianne Hale, courtesy of the San Francisco Zoo

Steve Uchida, who lives on Monterey Boulevard; Jim Hanratty, who lives on Stillings Avenue; and Sam Orr, who lives on Gates Street in Bernal Heights, selected tools and set about the muddy task.

Jumping the ditch to reach the side closest to Christopher Playground, Uchida set about manicuring its bank, cutting back blackberry vines. Uchida ran interference for Arnold, his Natural Areas Program supervisor. Arnold planted a foot in the shallow canal and, with singular stabs of her shovel, repeatedly scooped heaps of gunk onto the other side of the trench from where Uchida worked his lopper.

Sam Orr and Jim Hanratty moved farther along the channel, coming upon a willow bough that lay athwart the trench. It spawned spokes of lichen-caked branches. With loppers, the two set about pruning the offshoots and removing the debris to a pile Arnold had already located on the downslope.

Uchida hopscotched several times past Arnold while Orr and Hanratty continued working. A low-lying willow limb threatened a path to the debris pile, so Orr lay down his lopper, picked up a handsaw and removed it.

Before they started out for the culvert site, Arnold had tutored the volunteers on how to make an initial undercut before tackling the dorsal side of a tree limb to be removed. Orr made true cuts on a branch that, left ignored, might have crowned an unsuspecting hiker.

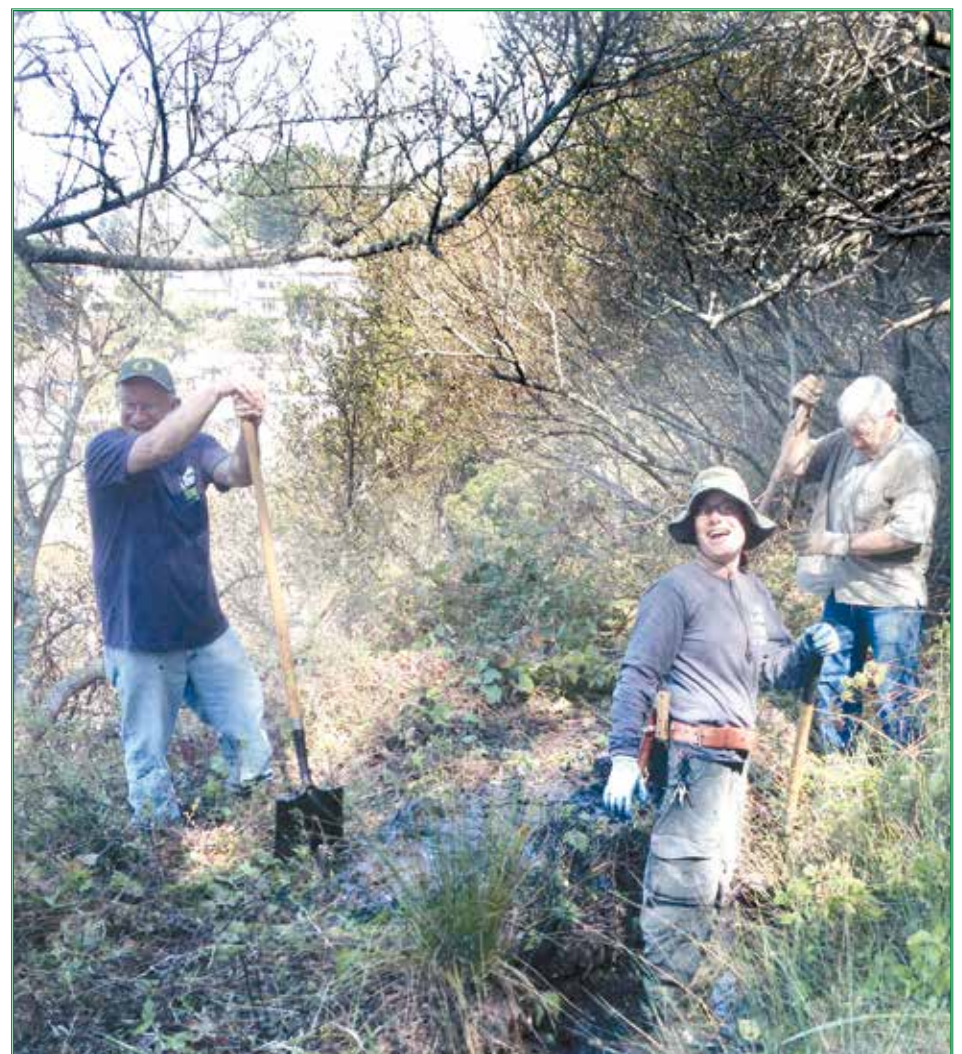
Standing ankle-deep in the middle of the hillside gully, Arnold called a halt to the morning's activity. Mounds of sopping dirt along the channel were attracting flies, a mosquito or two, even a worm that wiggled close to the nearby bank.

Diamond Heights houses were visible uphill. The development of housing and commercial sites in the 1960s resulted in habitat destruction, including reduction of watersheds required by the damselfly.

Rec and Park logs thousands of hours of neighborhood volunteer time each year, which go a long way in ensuring the health of the City's open spaces.

The three Glen Canyon Park volunteers have been hanging with one another for years now. They enjoy the weekly work—and the camaraderie. Uchida is a retired U.S. Postal Service worker, Hanratty a former engineer and Orr an ex-journalist, and while pruning willow and shoveling dirt they banter and joke. They keep it simple: films, family, friends.

Yet it's Glen Canyon and its wild things that bind them together—every Wednesday. ♦



Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteers Jim Hanratty and Sam Orr and Rec and Park gardener Shelley Arnold rest after clearing a ditch of mud in the high reaches of Glen Canyon. The ditch is prime habitat for the natural area's damselfly.

Photo by Murray Schneider

Glen Park's Top Cop Talks Crime, Safety

Capt. Joseph McFadden is commander of the San Francisco Police Department's Ingleside Station.

His jurisdiction covers a vast, diverse 6.5-square-mile area that includes Glen Park, stretching from the San Mateo County line to Cesar Chavez Street, and from Visitacion Valley to Westwood Park, St. Francis Wood and Mt. Davidson. Its 110 officers, including seven recruits in training, protect the second-largest police district in the city.

Each month McFadden convenes a community meeting, circulating among the many neighborhoods in Ingleside's jurisdiction. In October the meeting came to St. John Elementary School on Chenery Street. Most of the two-dozen or so attendees were from the wider area covered by Ingleside Station.

These meetings are an opportunity for residents to discuss police and safety issues that concern them with the officials in charge. The "Community Calendar" on Page 24 lists dates of forthcoming meetings.

Pedestrian Personal Safety

McFadden gave a quick tutorial on staying safe. Early darkness in fall and winter requires heightened alert. In Glen Park, the BART station area is a particular crime target. "People can be oblivious," he said. "Walking around staring at your phone is like waving a \$500 bill on the street." Incidents of muggers grabbing laptops, particularly from women, are increasing.

Be cautious if you're alone on the street and a car passes you twice. That could mean you're a mark for robbery. McFadden explained that muggers sometimes work in pairs, with one of the culprits dropped off near the victim to commit the crime while the other waits nearby in a getaway car.

"If you're being followed, bring attention to yourself," McFadden said. "Try to find a well-lighted area. Stop a car on the street. Go to a merchant. Go to the nearest residence door and ring the bell.

"Not many criminals will follow you up a flight of stairs. Take a picture if you can at the top of the stairs," he added. "Their psychology is to want

the element of surprise. Once they see you're onto them, they're likely to seek out an easier target."

Neighborhood Crime Trends

In Glen Park, all types of crime involving vehicles seem to be an epidemic: Vehicle theft, smash and grab, and vandalism. "My car was stolen two weeks ago; it was a beat up minivan—what are the odds of recovery?" asked one of the attendees at the meeting. The captain said that "ratty" cars are usually stolen for joyrides and recovered within 24 to 48 hours.

McFadden reported that, as of October, crime in the district was down overall for the seventh month in a row, although there has been an increase in shootings and gang activity. He said gang-related crime rates tend to rise when retaliation is at play but fall after police make arrests.

How Citizens Can Help

McFadden introduced a local activist who's been helpful in letting the police know what's going on with gang activity. The police rely on citizens to help with tips and information.

If you're a victim, identifying or remembering the perpetrator is essential. McFadden gave this tip: Remember the perpetrator's shoes; they're often unique to a specific person, unlike clothing. And notice scars and tat-

IN GLEN PARK, THE BART STATION AREA IS A PARTICULAR CRIME TARGET. PEOPLE CAN BE OBLIVIOUS. WALKING AROUND STARING AT YOUR PHONE IS LIKE WAVING A \$500 BILL ON THE STREET.

toos, which helps identify suspects and results in many convictions.

Witnesses are vital to prosecuting crime. Even if there's cell phone video of an incident, the victim must still be willing to identify the perpetrator. Without a witness statement the same people can be arrested day in and day out, and be back on the street within 24 hours.

Private security cameras play an increasing role in neighborhood safety. The district attorney's office has started a camera registration program, and Ingleside Station plans one of its own. McFadden said it would be very helpful to know where security



Capt. Joseph McFadden addressed Ingleside Station's community meeting.

Photo by Bonnee Waldstein

cameras are in our area so police can review footage to assist in investigations. Even if cameras don't capture the actual incident, they can provide valuable information.

The captain asked people to email him at the address below if they think their camera may have captured pertinent footage that might help police and prosecutors.

Police Body Cameras

Ingleside Station officers have begun wearing body cameras, initially in the Bayview and Mission neighborhoods.

The cameras will be in use throughout the SFPD by early 2017. Officers Benjamin Shih and David Dito demonstrated how they're worn and used. The camera is mounted on the uniformed officer's chest.

Recordings are time- and date-stamped, and downloaded at the end of each shift.

It's a permanent record that can't be erased or manipulated. The captain enumerated some advantages of cameras: Police can look back on an incident and get a more accurate picture of what happened. Situations that might otherwise escalate can be defused when a potential criminal knows video

is being recorded. The video provides great evidence for prosecution. It also can cut down on the large number of false and frivolous complaints that eat up valuable police time.

If You're Stopped While Driving

In light of recent high-profile incidents, the McFadden offered this advice: If you are stopped in your car, pull over and put your hands up where they can be seen. Let the officer know before you do anything—for example, "I have my registration, can I get it?" There are many young officers in the SFPD. Officers are tense on every traffic stop. Don't argue or escalate the situation. Remember that you are required to follow a lawful order.

Questions and Answers

A meeting attendee asked about securing weapons in police cars. Recent incidents in which guns were stolen from law-enforcement vehicles involved other agencies, McFadden noted. The policy of the SFPD is to not leave weapons unsecured in their vehicles. ♦

Contact Capt. McFadden by email at: joseph.mcfadden@sfgov.org. Ingleside Station community meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call the station for location: 415-553-0123.

Vehicular Crimes Menace the Neighborhood

Glen Park Station compiles a list of criminal acts in Glen Park that are reported to police; it's posted periodically on the Glen Park Bulletin Board Yahoo group site.

A review of this report from January through September 2016 indicates that vehicular crime is a major source of criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Here are the statistics:

- Stolen vehicle: 34
- Theft from vehicle: 0
- Recovered vehicle: 15 (unknown relationship between stolen and recovered vehicles)
- Hit and run to vehicle: 12
- Vandalism of vehicle: 8
- Stolen license plate: 4
- Recovered license plate: 3 (unknown relationship between stolen and recovered license plates)
- Stolen bicycle: 2

For the sake of completeness, other crimes in Glen Park reported during the same period are:

- Burglary: 37
- Fraud: 13
- Theft: 7
- Battery: 5
- Robbery/assault: 3
- Armed robbery: 4
- Miscellaneous: 11

All told, one or more incidents were reported on 133 days during the 273-day period, or almost one every other day.

Nextdoor Glen Park is a website where one can take the pulse of neighborhood concerns. Judging from the postings between last August and September, a lot of electronic ink is being spilled in angst over many types of vehicular crime.

To put it in context, one post cited the 2015–2016 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury report on auto burglary (break-ins): “Auto burglaries in San Francisco in 2015 cost residents and visitors \$19 million in stolen goods. There were 24,800 reported incidents (around 70 per day), a 5-year high, but only 484 arrests. This represented a 34 percent increase over 2014.”

The following is an edited sampling of recent postings on Nextdoor Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods.

“Last night our old (car) was broken into and keys and sundries were taken.”
“At least 8 cars had windows broken last



Car break-ins are one of the major crime problems in Glen Park.

Photo by Twanda Baker/Flickr

night on Sanchez St. between Randall and 30th... Seems to be pure vandalism; one car had a tennis racquet bag and expensive sunglasses in it that were not taken.”

“Found the back window of my (car) broken this morning on Mateo between Chenery & Arlington. My bad for leaving stuff in the back in plain view...”

“We have lived on Arlington Street for 20 years. In the last 6 months, my car has been broken into 3 times and my husband's car has been broken into twice... Only once was there anything visible in the cars.”

“I had been cleaning a (car) generator in my garage... I left the garage for 10 minutes and the generator was gone when I returned.”

“My car was hit – no note... this is the second time I've had to deal with a hit and run—a \$500 deductible is no joke.”

“A thief approached our car and looked under rear tire well. Then approached my (other) car and looked under rear tire well. He then

fiddled with his phone and the lights and the car turned on and he unlocked the car!”

“Wow, I heard this was an emerging threat... I bet this isn't exclusive to any particular model, but could include any electronic key fob.”

“They were most likely preparing to steal your wheels and tires but aborted the job.”
“My car was electronically hacked mul-

tiple times before I got (the dealer) to disable the keyless entry/proximity feature... No more break-ins!”

“They are frequently amplifying the signal of your own key fobs in the house. Keep them far from the front of house and/or put them in the freezer.”

“The simplest solution is to buy a key fob pouch on Amazon.”

“Another vandal on Laidley Street last night... The bolts were taken off the wheels and one of the wheels was almost removed so the car was inoperable.”

All is not without hope, however. Several posts were along these lines:

“A police officer recommended requesting more frequent patrols. They'll patrol more frequently for a while, but then we need to request it again. I think they're pretty responsive!”

“Thanks to everyone on the block for being so supportive. What a great community of folks looking out for each other!”

To read the Civil Grand Jury report on auto burglary: www.civilgrandjury.sfgov.org. ❖



The owner of a car parked on Diamond Street posts a plea to would-be vandals and thieves.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

No Charges Filed in Fatal Glen Park Shooting

The 100 block of Addison Street in Glen Park is a long, winding street with an incline, tucked between towering eucalyptus trees, two-story flats, and street-level townhouses whose backyards provide a view of the city.

On one evening last fall, the only sounds were rustling leaves and an occasional car, as neighbors arrived home from work.

That quietude was shattered on the afternoon of Oct. 24 when shots rang out. In the aftermath, one man was dead and another, a local filmmaker, was under arrest.

According to several news reports, San Francisco police arrested Kevin Epps, 48, "on suspicion of homicide and being a felon in possession of a firearm." He was later released.

Max Szabo, a spokesman for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, told KRON 4 news that there "is insufficient evidence to charge the case at this time." He told the *Glen Park News*, "The case remains under investigation. Accordingly, we are unable to discuss any details."

Shootings, let alone fatal shootings, are rare in Glen Park.

The deceased, Marcus Polk Sr., was an acquaintance of Epps', and according to reports, was formerly married to Epps' wife. Relatives of Polk told reporters that he would often show up at the Addison Street home uninvited. What exactly led to the shooting is not publicly known.

Neighbors were reluctant to talk about the incident, saying they were not home at the time of the shooting, or simply "don't know anything," as one young woman told us.

One man, enjoying the crisp evening, said he has known Epps since they were kids and that he is "a good guy."

Epps, whose 2003 breakout film *Straight Outta Hunters Point* shined a light on the Bay-front San Francisco neighborhood, quickly became a hero and role model for young people who were not necessarily trying to escape the area, but wanted to stay and build the community.

In 2012, Epps told *SF Weekly*, "All I can do is try to be an example by what I do in terms of my livelihood ... I do it a different way and that kind of helps

them see that you can use your God-given talent to make it work for you."

In November 2016, San Francisco Police Public Information Officer

Giselle Talkoff reported, "This is still an open and active investigation. At this time we cannot provide any further information regarding this case." ❖

A New Little Free Library Opens



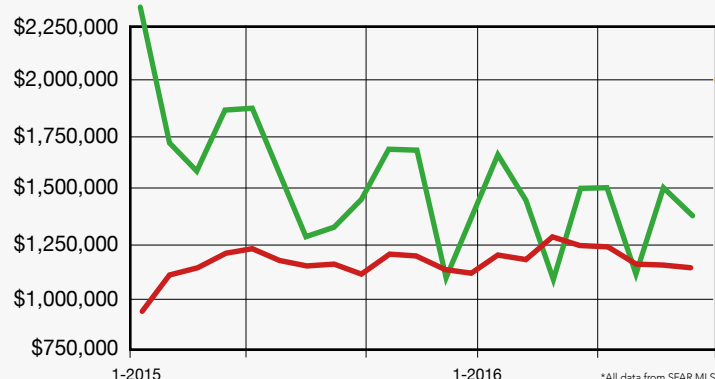
A new little free library opened recently on the 2700 block of Diamond Street, joining others in the neighborhood and worldwide. The goal of the global volunteer program is to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges while building a sense of community. More information can be found at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>.

GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE: HOLIDAY EDITION

During this festive time, I want to express my gratitude to all my clients for contributing to the success of my real estate career. Living in the wonderful community of Glen Park gives an appreciation for the place we all call home. This chart illustrates how desirable Glen Park remains in the eyes of buyers!

Median Sales Price - Single Family
Rolling 12-Month Calculation

5A Glen Park —
SF County —



"If I were selling my place again, I would absolutely ask Judy to represent me! I put a lot of faith and confidence in Judy and she came through with flying colors! I had to sell my place fast - and she was a real pro at helping me through the staging and the negotiations!" John K.

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS 2017



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With music, poetry and literature all in one special place, the CLP at B&B is a neighborhood gem.

Susan Petro, San Francisco attorney

My daughter loves to meet friends at the bookstore to spend an hour or two with live music- It's a safe and affordable night out for our young people.

Nancy Walter, community activist

When I have out-of-town guests, I never fail to include a visit to the CLP at B&B on a Friday or Saturday night. They always love it; moreover, they come away with the feeling they've been exposed to something rare & uniquely San Francisco.

Suresh Mirchand, owner of an interior design business located in the San Francisco Design Center

The Cultural Legacy Project survives on donations from the community. When you stop into the bookshop, check us out, and leave a check! You can also donate through the bookshop's website or by mail. Donors over \$50/year receive discounts on their book purchases; donors over \$250/year also receive a free gift!

The Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to present music and literary events within the walls of Bird & Beckett Books & Records, an independent bookshop located in Glen Park at 653 Chenery Street. Your donations to the BBCLP are fully tax deductible.

Lunch Builds Community For Neighborhood Seniors

I would like to tell you about a small but effective mission at Saint Aidan's called Diamond Diners.

About four years ago, at a meeting of the Resilient Diamond Heights committee, the manager of Diamond Heights Shopping Center, Jeannette Oliver, mentioned that there seemed to be a lot of seniors wandering around Safeway and Walgreens with nothing to do. They didn't seem to have anywhere else to go. This generated a conversation among Judy Bley, Patricia Brown, Grace King and myself about the lack of senior services in our neighborhood. We decided to do something about it and Diamond Diners was born.

Diamond Diners is a free lunch program on the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 2 p.m., for seniors 55 or older. Each month about 25 people come to the parish hall to share a meal and conversation. The group is made up of people who use our food pantry; residents of Diamond Heights, Glen Park and nearby 94131 neighborhoods; Saint Aidan's parishioners; and homeless people.

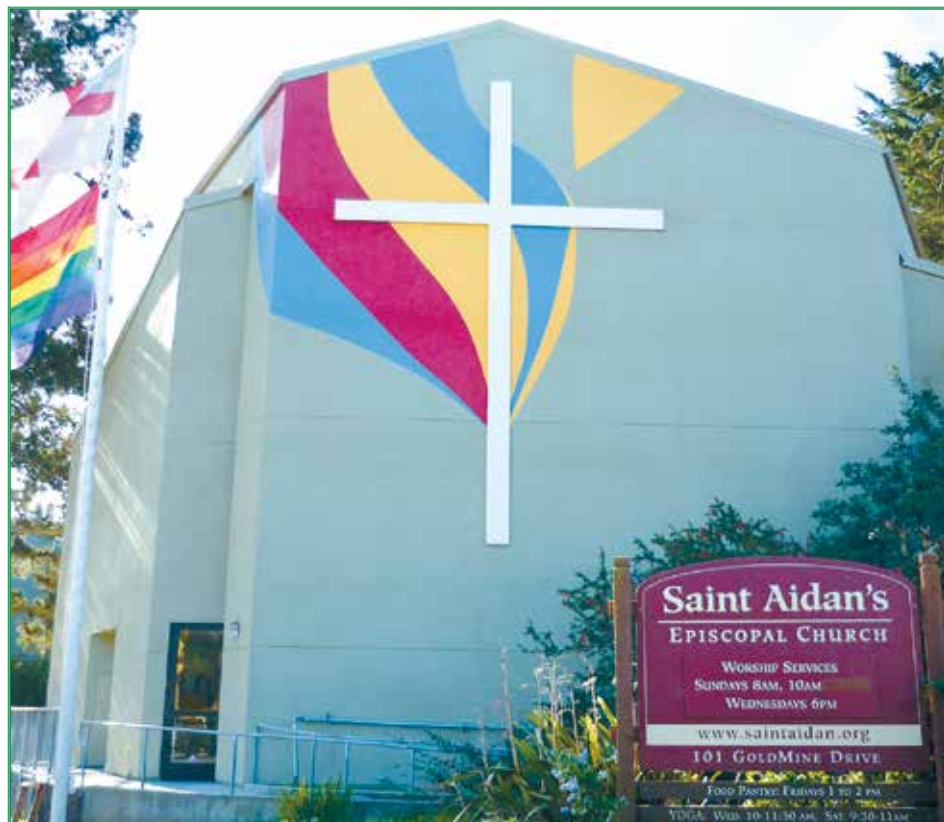
When we first opened, people tended to sit only with whatever group they identified with or came with. But unspoken rules can be easily shattered. For Diamond Diners it happened when a new person came, about six months into the program, and just sat down at a table where a seat was available. Now people move freely to any open seat, identity and rules cast aside.

A community has developed over the past four years. People catch up on the latest news and happenings in each other's lives, information is shared, and concern is expressed when someone is missing.

Providing this service to seniors takes hands. Judy, Patricia, Grace and I prepare the food each month. We cook enough for 40 people. This is enough food for seconds and take-home boxes.

Come and check out our lunch mission at Saint Aidan's. We welcome you to enjoy lunch and chat a bit. Just drop in, no reservations. ❖

Susan Spencer is the parish nurse at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard. Contact her at nurse@staidansf.org.



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Glen Park Children's Holiday Gift Guide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

checking out. While you're there, visit the Tree of Gratitude, and add your own leaf.

At Little Artistas, the bilingual arts-and-crafts site for children at 667 Chenery St., two special winter camps will be held over the winter break: Sculpture, ages 3–5, in Spanish, Dec. 19–23, and Drawing and Painting, ages 6–10, Dec. 26–30. Each camp session runs Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and costs \$500.

For present-giving, gift certificates are available on the Little Artistas website (www.littleartistas.com) for the winter session, which begins on Jan. 9.

Perch, at 654 Chenery St., offers a range of non-electronic toys for youngsters up to 8 years old, ranging from modeling clay at \$2.50 to a croquet set for \$42. There are games with such names as Tin Can Alley and Hook a Duck, Duelling, Water Zappers (*not g-u-n-s*) and a box of cardboard do-it-yourself models called Pop-Out San Francisco.

A ready-to-grow dinosaur egg comes nestled in its own jar, while a seedling kit will appeal to those with small green thumbs. For stocking stuffers, check out the animal balloons, paper dolls, wooden yo-yos, novelty crayons, colored pencils and scented pens.

Blocks, stacking toys, puzzles, stuffed animals and clothes for little kids—T-shirts, socks and onesies—round out Perch's kids' corner. For their parents, a range of made-in-San Francisco tote bags can do double-duty for schlepping child paraphernalia. And this year's version of gorgeous hand-made wreaths features elves, old tree ornaments and toys, including little houses from the 1950s and '60s that light up (\$375).

For parents and other doting adults, Perch owner Zoel Fages points out, "There's cocktail and bar stuff."

Down the block at Critter Fritters, 670 Chenery, there's an array of toys for pets—and many that can do double-duty for young pet owners. A line of adorable stuffed rescue dogs, from the dog charity MuttNation, looks perfect for snuggling up with for an afternoon nap. Kids and their pets can play together with an amazing variety of balls, throw and chew toys, squeaky toys and lots of other interactive gizmos, most of them sized perfectly for stockings.

Eric Whittington, owner of Bird & Beckett Books, 653 Chenery, invites gift-givers to browse through a well-stocked children's book section with illustrated versions of classic fairy



There are many great holiday gift ideas at Bird & Beckett bookstore.

Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

tales, and the latest installment of the popular Hilda series, *Hilda and the Bird Parade*. Whittington suggests two books with a local connection: *Journey: Based on the True Story of OR7, the Most Famous Wolf in the West*, by Emma Bland Smith, author of *San Francisco's Glen Park and Diamond Heights*, part of a local history series; and *The Boomerang Effect*, by Gordon Jack, a neighborhood resident.

Journey, for young readers, is a picture book about the first wild wolf in California in almost a century, and a girl who followed the wolf's progress on a 2,000 mile trek. Illustrations are by Robin James. *Boomerang* is aimed at young adults. As one reviewer described it: "A hilariously subversive YA debut that explores the meaning of friendship and loyalty, and also why you should avoid being trapped in a small space with an angry chicken."

For teens, there's a whole rack of graphic novels, including the Amulet series, and other shelves marked Youth Fiction, Youth Series and Youth Non-Fiction.

Bird & Beckett is a great place for kids to buy inexpensive gifts for the grownups in their lives, too. The B&B calendar (\$25) helps support the shop and its weekly concert schedule. *Birds of Northern California* (\$19.95) would come in handy in Glen Canyon Park.

A rack of "Noir" paperbacks listed by city name—Brooklyn, Venice, Dallas and more—features short stories, by famous or lesser-known writers, linked to different neighborhoods in each city. Of course there's a San Francisco edition.

Large (\$12) and small (\$6) Slingshot organizers with brightly colored covers has space for all the sorts of things you

put in a pocket calendar, accompanied by "radical dates for every day of the year." For example, Jan. 20, 1917—Inauguration Day—is also, according to the small version, the anniversary of

the 1969 day in Berkeley's Peoples Park declared "a national Hallucination." Perhaps more pertinent, the day President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in is also the anniversary of the founding in 1920 of the American Civil Liberties Union, the large one notes.

B&B wouldn't celebrate Christmas without jazz, and so Whittington recommends *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*, by Chris Raschka. "There are kids in this neighborhood who can recite it," he says. Another illustrated kids' book about a jazz great, *I'm Just A Lucky So And So*, about the very young Louis Armstrong, is by Lesa Cline-Ransome, with illustrations by James E. Ransome.

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone, by Katheryn Russell-Brown with illustrations by Frank Morrison, is a kids' biography of a lesser-known but influential musician, Melba Doretta Liston. Whittington says another woman trombone player, Natalie Cressman, and her ensemble will be playing and singing jazz in the bookstore on Feb. 19. ♦

Local Businesses Offer Holiday Treats to Eat

The holiday season is for eating, too—for both children and the adults who feed them.

Canyon Market, Destination Bakery and Cheese Boutique have stocked up on their traditional end-of-year offerings. Be sure to order early.

Canyon, celebrating its 10th anniversary, has all the makings for a complete dinner—poultry, meat or fish for the main course, soups and appetizers, sides, desserts, beverages, and extras to set out when company arrives—cheese and crackers, nuts, seasonal fruits and more.

Destination has special holiday desserts, as well as its usual fare of sweets and breads. Cheese Boutique has Italian panettone and German stollen. You can order cheese or Mideastern salad platters to serve gatherings of any size.

For dining out on Christmas Day, Le P'tit Laurent will have a special four-course dinner, with one seating at 5:30 and another at 8:30. Owner Laurent Legendre says the meal will be "very family Christmas," with kids especially welcome. The restaurant will be closed from Dec. 30 through Jan. 2.

Manzoni, our fine Italian dining spot, will be open on New Year's Eve, but closed on Christmas and New Year's

days. Next door, Win Garden will be serving its Chinese dishes as usual throughout the holidays. La Cornetta, the spot for tacos and other Mexican fare, will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day, but will be open 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31. Tataki Canyon will be open on New Year's Eve, but closed Dec. 24–25 and Jan. 1.

Be sure to check out Glen Park's newest restaurant, One Maan (2922 Diamond St., across from the BART station). ♦



A Canyon Market holiday display.

Neighborhood Restaurant Round-up

One Waan is a hard-to-translate Thai term meaning, roughly, “good memory.”

Alex Prasertsith said it is intended to signify that “we love cooking.”

One Waan, Glen Park’s newest restaurant, opened on Nov.

9 in the Diamond Street location across from the BART station where Osha Thai closed in mid-October. Prasertsith, the new owner, is a native of Bangkok who has worked in Thai restaurants since coming to San Francisco eight years ago. One Waan is “my dream coming true,” he said.

The menu will be similar to Osha Thai’s at first, but will gradually add new specialties. One Waan will be open every day from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for lunch, and 5–10 p.m. for dinner. A website, OneWaansf.com, is in the works.

Beer and wine will be on sale, with a new, frequently changing wine list coming soon. Home delivery and take-out are available. Prasertsith said each dish will be cooked to order, using fresh-daily ingredients.

Prasertsith, whose family owned a manufacturing plant in Thailand, studied international business in Brisbane, Australia. An aunt in that city had a restaurant “where I fell in love with cooking,” he said. He then came to San Francisco to study indus-



trial design at the Academy of Art University.

He worked to support himself at a Thai restaurant on Irving Street, and when he heard that the Glen Park branch of Osha Thai was closing (the other branches remain open), Prasertsith jumped at the chance to own his own place. His wife, Yueyun Zhang, an artist, helps out by doing the paperwork.

Prasertsith invites everyone in Glen Park to stop by for lunch or dinner: “We cook the same as for a family—a little bit Thai, a little bit American.”

One Waan is at 2922 Diamond St.

Laurent branches out

Laurent Legendre, owner of the hugely popular Glen Park bistro Le P’tit Laurent, is taking over Le Zinc, the 24th Street space in Noe Valley that closed in October.

Le P’tit Laurent, located at Diamond and Chenery streets, will remain open.

Legendre’s sister establishment will offer French cuisine, of course, and will be open every day for dinner and Wednesday through Sunday for lunch or brunch. Legendre hopes to open as soon as regulatory paperwork, including the transfer of the beer and wine license, is completed.

The space became available when Le Zinc’s owner, Max Braud, shut



Diamond Street Thai restaurant, top, changes hands, while Le P’tit Laurent, above, opens sister eatery in Noe Valley. Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

down after running it alone for a year following the death of his wife, Diana Barrand. It had been open since 2001.

Legendre plans some changes: an enlarged patio out back, and some specialty cocktails with French names. They will be wine-based, he says, since he does not plan to have a full bar. An example? The Fraicheur, made of herbal vermouth, a fortified wine called quinquina, and bitters.

“As much as I love P’tit Laurent, it’s time to try something new,” Legendre

said. He will divide his time between the two locations. “We have a very, very good crew right here [in Glen Park],” he said.

The 24th Street location will have a new name, he added—but he would not reveal it in advance, citing a restaurateur superstition. A French one? “Actually, it’s American,” he said.

The new restaurant will be at 4063 24th St., near Castro Street in Noe Valley. Le P’tit Laurent is at 699 Chenery St., at the corner of Diamond Street in Glen Park. ❖



Alex Prasertsith, One Waan’s new owner. Photo by Gail Bensinger

1930s Rec Center Gets 21st-Century Redo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We'll staff the Rec Center so we can offer yoga, Pilates, dance classes and movie nights," continued Kahn. "We'll be open Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with spaces available for rentals on Sunday and Monday."

One of these spaces is an addition to the original William Merchant-designed 1933 building, a concrete structure immediately adjacent to the park's northern-most tennis court.

The new classrooms will have a NanaWall—a retractable folding glass wall that opens onto the new plaza, said Brett Desmarais, the project manager. "It offers our recreational staff programmatic flexibility."

"We're taking precautions to avoid vandalism," Desmarais added. "Our security system will include cameras, motion detectors, door sensors, even an anti-graffiti coating that makes tagging easier to remove."

Rice, the GPA president, said he is looking forward to the remodeled facility's debut.

"Our neighborhood Recreation Center is the last in the city to be substantially upgraded and modernized," Rice observed. "It's long overdue."

The project's cost of \$14.1 million was financed by the voter-supported 2008 and 2012 Clean & Safe Neighborhood Parks bonds. The new center is a seismically safer building that meets Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Its expansive windows will provide natural light and ventilation. The added windows will improve sight lines, allowing park directors to ensure that children enter and leave the facility safely.

On an unseasonably warm mid-November morning, Mary Daly



trailed her 130-pound Labrador-Newfoundland mix, Bruce, on their canyon constitutional. She circled the building, watching workers angle from acutely slanted roofs, scaling scaffolding to hammer sheathing.

"It's turning out beautifully, so light and airy," Daly said. She's lived on Chenery Street since 1994, and walks 3-year-old Bruce in the park every day. "It's continuing to take shape. Neighbors can see what it can be, what it will be."

Kahn said that while the project was delayed several weeks because of unforeseen structural repairs, the planned opening is set for the spring. "The contractor, Roebuck Construction, is now working to seal the building prior to the winter rains," he said.

The building's interior will feature new lighting and fire-suppression systems; new central, multi-stall accessible restrooms on the ground floor; and a new "main entry" and staff welcome desk facing the children's playground.

"And more picnic tables," said Rice, who lives on Sussex Street.

Picnic tables situated on either side of a courtyard between the children's playground and a refurbished Rec Center—silhouetted by three commissioned solar-powered public art



Work continues on the recreation center project, including the new entrance (top) and the roof (above).

Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

totems—can serve as venues for hanging out or gathering places for classes.

"The front courtyard doesn't have any fixed furniture, but can be set up with moveable tables and chairs for events and everyday use," said Project Manager Desmarais. "There will be permanent picnic tables in the north terrace near the gymnasium, as well as next to the public art near the playground."

Chris Pollock serves as a historian to the Recreation and Park Department.

On the same November morning that Daly nudged Bruce to keep going, Pollock stood by the Sussex Street steps, holding a binder filled with photographs of William Merchant's original Rec Center drawings and of European chalets to which Merchant paid homage in his design.

"I like the quirkiness, the playfulness of the building. It's not a box," said Pollock. "It's almost like a village, set willy-nilly, but coming together nicely and usefully." ❖

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❖ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ❖

The holidays are a great opportunity to express gratitude for those who enhance our neighborhood and build community.

Thank you to Paul Matalucci, project leader for the Diamond Heights Boulevard Median Project, who engaged by Betsy Friends of the Urban Forest and neighborhood volunteers to plant 14 Canary Island pines on the median islands on Sept. 10. Thank you to the Diamond Heights Shopping Center for its large donation to the Median Project.

Thank you to residents Cliff Detz and Jeff Harlowe who, even before the start of our Litter Prevention Campaign, regularly picked up litter along Diamond Heights Boulevard. Thank you to Jane Lidz, who is certainly a neighborhood hero for picking up litter mornings and evenings on Beacon Street between Billy Goat Hill and Walter Haas Park.

We thank the woman who wants to remain anonymous for caring for the jades and geraniums on the hillside on Diamond Heights Boulevard. Thank you to Janet Aguilera, our Rec and Park gardener, who keeps our neighborhood parks well maintained and litter-free.

Immeasurable gratitude is expressed to all the residents, business employees, nonprofit staff, City workers and volunteers who care about the neighborhood and contribute to its vitality.

Administrator Change at Casa De Vida: The neighborhood bid farewell

in November to Jim Stelly, who served for seven years as administrator for the residence for people with mobility challenges. He will be missed by the residents he served and by his colleagues on the Diamond Heights Community Association Board and on the Resilient Diamond Heights Workgroup. Stelly's work with residents to increase resiliency for emergencies will continue as a model for other housing developments in the neighborhood.

New Rector at St. Aidan's: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church welcomed the Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge at his first service on Nov. 27. Cameron earned his doctorate in theology at Harvard Divinity School, where he has taught since 2009. His experience in parish and campus ministries and in teaching will bring new support for St. Aidan's and the community.

Diamond Heights Holiday Party: Please join neighborhood partners and residents for our 4th annual free neighborhood holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 17, 3–6 p.m., at St. Aidan's Church. Holiday craft activities provided by Eleanor Elliot, entertainment and caroling by Richard "Scumbly" Koldewyn, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand, and refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Diamond Heights Community Association, the Diamond Heights Shopping Center, Resilient Diamond Heights and St. Aidan's Church. ❖

Betsy Eddy is president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. Contact her at dhcasf@gmail.com.



Volunteers plant trees on Diamond Heights Blvd. median. Photo by Paul Matalucci

Happy Holidays Glen Park!

We just want to wish each one of you the best in the New Year. We are truly blessed to live in Glen Park and to be able to call it HOME. Here's to a successful life in work, family, relationships and play...



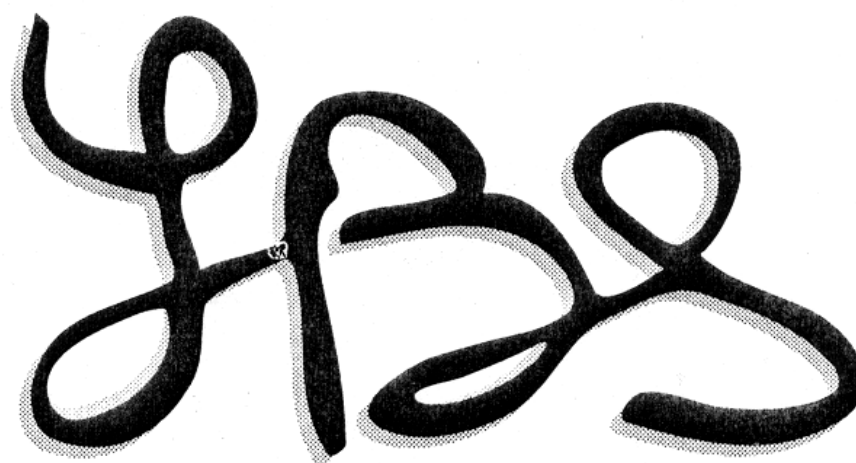
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❖ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS ❖

Glen Park Elementary School

At Glen Park School this fall, the halls exploded with color, with hand-made piñatas and prayer flags cheerfully hanging in celebration of Spanish

history month, known officially as National Hispanic Heritage Month, from Oct. 15–Nov. 15.

Teachers, staff and families worked together to provide a rich portrait of the countries in South and Central America. With stories, poems and memories, members of our community shared their personal experiences, customs and traditions. In an assembly at the end of the month, students in costumes performed traditional dances, exhibiting their learning throughout the month. We thank all of our community members for making this event so special.

Our kids had an excellent time marching around the neighborhood in a Halloween parade. It was a thrill to see so many neighbors out smiling

and waving as we made our way from the school through the neighborhood. Glen Park School is so fortunate to be surrounded by such a wonderful community.

Glen Park students have been adventuring out to many areas of the city, from a bakery in the Mission to SFMOMA and beyond. Many classrooms are striving to work Glen Canyon into the schedule as well; one of our teachers created a school-wide curriculum on learning in nature.

Our first large fund-raiser of the year was a raging success. Families worked hard to provide plenty of opportunity for children to play while their parents got to dance with some very energetic and talented Zumba instructors at the Fall Fiesta. Glen Park families worked for days to cook an outstanding feast, and fun was had by all.

Our first STEAM night, presented by the after-school program, focused on science and engineering. Participants were building, mixing solutions, creating and experimenting, inside the

school and out. Kids made volcanoes, lava lamps, slime, boats, rockets and more. The evening was enjoyed so heartily we cannot wait for our next one to happen!

As the days grow shorter, you will see families walking to school many days of the week—and always the first Wednesday of each month. Every Friday, the school begins the day with a schoolwide dance-off before tackling the day's learning. This has been a wonderful way to bring our community together and build lots of positive energy for the school day.

We have some exciting new art projects coming up after the holidays, so watch for more information coming soon!

Have a wonderful holiday season. ❖

Kerri Terk is president of the Glen Park Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, visit glenparkschool.org.

Sunnyside Elementary School

Sunnyside Elementary students have had a great autumn. Our kindergarten

classes worked hard studying all the different elements of a pumpkin.

First and second graders were busy working with our SEEDS instructor, Mr. Eddie (Samaniego), to make seed balls and plant them in our newly renovated education garden. Third graders enjoyed Math Enrichment time, working on problem solving and coding with Ms. Rhiana (Maidenberg).

Finally, our fourth and fifth graders

have been busy with school leadership. We had two leadership programs this fall. Junior Coaches have been training with our health and wellness coordinator, Coach Jam (Hornsby) to lead games and help during recesses. Approximately 50 fourth and fifth graders participate in this program. We also have a newly elected Student Council. We had some amazing speeches by this great group of kids, explaining why they would be the perfect president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. I think Sunnyside is in great hands with our new Student Council!

Our two special day classrooms have also had a great fall season. We received two grants from the Glen Park Association this year, and we put both toward improving the technology in our moderate-to-severe disability classrooms. We used a grant from the Glen Park Association in April for a great Smart Board for our K-2 class. We also received a grant from the Glen Park Festival, which allowed us to purchase iPads for the classroom. The iPads are an amazing tool to help with communication for the students. The kids are learning to use them and are able to communicate with their teachers and paraprofessionals in ways that they were never able to do before. We give a huge thank you to all our neighbors in Glen Park for helping our school thrive.

We have some more exciting news for our Sunnyside neighbors and students: Our schoolyard is being added to the Shared Schoolyard project, which means it will be open to the public on weekends from approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are very excited to be able to use the newly renovated yard outside of school hours. Look for our “soft opening” on weekends starting in early December. We would love to have all our Sunnyside and Glen Park neighbors come play with us on the weekends.

Tours of our school are available every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. from October through January. To sign up for a tour please, see our website at www.sunnysidek5.org/tours. ❖

Kerri Spruston is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association.

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The Sweet Spirit of Giving



A quartet of cousins got busy baking the day after Thanksgiving to raise money for the San Francisco SPCA. They sold more than two dozen cupcakes at the corner of Diamond and Wilder Streets, pulling in \$73.95 that they delivered to the Mission District animal shelter.



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“Marc is extremely professional...”

“and well-organized. He was also very considerate and patient in answering all of my questions. In addition, he is well-connected, which allowed me the opportunity to get a special, personal tour of a beautiful historic building, and a sneak peak at units before they were about to be listed. I never felt pressured. I highly recommend him to anyone who is buying or selling a home, and looking for an experienced, professional, knowledgeable, friendly, and patient real estate agent.” —E.W., Buyer

A portion of each of Marc's commissions go to fund projects for his Core Concern:
THE RUTH ASAWA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



❖ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ❖

What's the deal with Airbnb? There is a lot of confusion about what's going on between Airbnb and the City, and what the current rules are.

But first, here is the market update:
Inventory was very low in Glen Park in the past couple of months. Between Aug. 15 and Nov. 1, 2016, we had a total of 18 sales in Glen Park—16 single-family homes, one condominium and one two-unit building.

The average sale price for single family homes was \$1,869,625, which is up about 12 percent from the previous quarter. The average sale price was about 7 percent over the list price. We have been seeing the over-asking sales price dropping by a couple of percentage points per quarter this year. I believe it's a continuing indication that prices are leveling out, so selling prices are closer to asking prices.

The average days on market went up to 43 days, from 23 days in the previous quarter. During this time the median list price was \$1,757,500, with the median sale price being \$1,769,000. If we compare average sales prices from January through November 2016 with the same period in 2015, prices were up about 2 percent. This is certainly a more normal year-to-year increase.

It will be illuminating to look at the year-end numbers and see where we end up. It's still a seller's market, due to the low inventory and of course our status as a destination city. Sellers need to be more realistic about where the market will take sale prices, and definitely more realistic about list prices.

Now back to Airbnb. For those who don't know, Airbnb is an online community marketplace that connects people looking to rent their entire homes or space in their homes with people who are looking for short-term accommodations.

A recent survey conducted by the *San Francisco Chronicle* found that close to 5,000 San Francisco homes, apartments and private or shared rooms were for rent via Airbnb. Many of them are in Glen Park.

Of course, there are rules for offering your home on Airbnb. San Francisco' ordinance to regulate short-term rentals applies to all buildings containing one or more residential units that are owned or rented by individuals who are permanent residents of San Francisco.

Single-Family Homes					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
145 Farnum St.	7/22/2016	56	\$950,000	\$1,061,000	111.68%
171 Sussex St.	7/28/2016	44	\$1,859,000	\$1,880,000	101.13%
210 Beacon St.	8/8/2016	11	\$2,398,000	\$3,300,000	137.61%
816 Chenery St.	8/19/2016	115	\$1,125,000	\$1,087,000	96.62%
10 Mercato Ct.	8/19/2016	86	\$1,690,000	\$1,555,000	92.01%
50 Burnside Ave.	8/24/2016	13	\$995,000	\$1,475,000	148.24%
51 Arbor St.	8/25/2016	74	\$2,549,000	\$2,430,000	95.33%
300 Sussex St.	9/7/2016	152	\$3,495,000	\$3,365,000	96.28%
37 Fairmount St.	9/7/2016	7	\$950,000	\$1,325,000	139.47%
121 Chilton Ave.	9/21/2016	29	\$995,000	\$1,380,000	138.69%
18 Roanoke St.	10/4/2016	23	\$1,895,000	\$2,067,500	109.10%
535 Laidley St.	10/11/2016	13	\$1,349,000	\$1,700,000	126.02%
317 Surrey St.	10/17/2016	18	\$1,859,000	\$2,200,000	118.34%
67 Everson St.	10/18/2016	33	\$1,825,000	\$1,838,000	100.71%
60 Laidley St.	10/19/2016	16	\$2,295,000	\$2,850,000	124.18%
256 Chenery St.	10/24/2016	46	\$2,799,000	\$2,825,000	100.93%
655 Congo St.	10/27/2016	15	\$999,000	\$1,075,000	107.61%
2650 Diamond St.	10/28/2016	13	\$1,395,000	\$1,320,000	94.62%
130 Randall St.	11/1/2016	35	\$3,699,000	\$3,650,000	98.68%
Condominiums/Multi-Unit Buildings					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
13 Surrey St - 2 unit	10/7/16	23	\$899,000	\$840,000	93.44%
170 Fairmount St.	10/12/16	13	\$1,295,000	\$1,425,000	110.04%
DOM - Days on market		SP/LP - % over list price			

Permanent residents are allowed to rent out their primary residences—but not locations in which they don't live, or second or vacation homes. This prevents landlords from evicting tenants to create full-time hotels. Hosts are required to register and obtain a permit from the Office of Short Term Rental, and pay a \$50 fee every two years. Hosts also need to obtain a City business license.

The 14 percent San Francisco hotel tax, called the Transient Occupancy Tax, must be collected from renters and paid to the City. All hosts must register with the San Francisco Treasurer and Tax Collector and obtain a business registration certificate. Hosts who list their rental through a "qualified website company" need not collect or remit the hotel tax themselves; the rental platform can do it for them.

Currently, Airbnb is the only qualified website company that collects and pays such taxes for its hosts. You must reside in your unit for at least 275 days per year if you are doing short-term

rentals. You can rent them up to 90 days per year.

This, of course, is the Readers Digest version – go to www.airbnb.com/help/article/871/san-francisco--ca for more details.

Airbnb sued San Francisco in June 2016 after the City enacted a measure barring home-sharing platforms from collecting booking fees from hosts who haven't registered their units with the City.

Airbnb asserts that a 20-year-old federal law shields it from liability tied to users, in the same way eBay isn't responsible for sales of bootleg recordings or Stubhub Inc. for scalped tickets. Airbnb's online transactions and fees are protected by the Communications Decency Act of 1996 because they are "part and parcel" of its service, it says.

A federal judge voiced skepticism about Airbnb's argument, saying he was struggling to understand why the company thinks it should be given immunity from local regulation as a publisher of someone else's content. As

of publication time, no ruling has been issued.

This dispute is happening in part because of the city's housing crisis. With San Francisco's median rent for a one-bedroom apartment at \$3,550 a month, some landlords are evicting tenants to pursue even more profitable short-term rentals.

The City loosened a long-time ban on converting residential units for short-term use last year, while requiring hosts to register. However, by some estimates as many as 75 percent of short-term rental units in San Francisco aren't registered, and Airbnb is profiting from them.

Airbnb counters that, by its estimate, 1,200 city residents have avoided foreclosure by hosting rooms or homes on its platform. Helping residents make ends meet is part of the company's pitch, voiced in TV commercials that began airing this fall.

Where this lawsuit will lead and how the City will enforce the ordinance are big questions. In the meantime if you are planning to rent your place via Airbnb, do yourself a favor and play by the rules. Airbnb's website is pretty good, and it's a fairly straightforward process to become a host. I have several friends or clients who are hosts, and for them it works out well.

It requires some work, though, so don't fool yourself into thinking you can just list your place and make a bunch of money. When you have guests in your home, you have to accommodate them. Some experiences will be great, while others may not be. I recommend talking to several different hosts before you decide to become one yourself. It's right for some, but not for everyone.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a happy New Year. See you in the neighborhood.

I'm pleased that this is an interactive column, answering your questions and writing about topics that are of interest to you as a reader. You can send any questions or topic requests to news@glenparkassociation.org, marc@opni.com, or the Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond St., No. 407, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident, is the Broker/Owner at Core7 Real Estate. He can be reached at marc@opni.com, or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is www.altrockrealtor.com.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from
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♦ COMMUNITY CALENDAR WINTER 2016 ♦

Every Monday

Family Storytime & Playtime
4–5:30, *Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond St.*
Books, songs and fun for children of all ages.

Every Tuesday

Family Storytime & Playtime
10:30–11:30, *Glen Park Library*
Books, songs and fun for children of all ages.

Every Wednesday

Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties
9–noon. Meet behind the Rec Center.

Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department's Natural Areas Program staff. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park, or for more information about the park, interpretive walks, and volunteer activities, contact Jean Conner at 415 584-8576

California Native Plant Society Work Parties
Noon-3, *Glen Canyon Park*

Volunteer activities include weeding, planting and general maintenance. Please wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine. To RSVP, email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6333.

Book a Librarian
4-5, *Glen Park Library,*

Do you need personalized help using a computer or the Internet? Do you have questions on a topic not covered in one of our free computer classes or simply need more help with research or a specific computer or internet task? Call 415 355-2858 to book an appointment.

Every Thursday

Teen Time
3:30-5, *Glen Park Library*
Teens do homework, hang out and occasionally play video games

Every Friday

Food Pantry
1–2 pm, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.*
(Closed December 23 and December 30)
Volunteers run this free Food Pantry for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 zip code. This is just one of the many community activities St. Aidan's hosts. Others include yoga, AA, Al-Anon, Weight Watchers and other community groups. For details, visit www.staidan.org or call 285-9540.

Jazz in the Bookshop
5:30–8, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*
A neighborhood party every week, with live jazz. \$10 per adult suggested donation; kids welcome and free! See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Every Saturday

Jazz Club
7:30–10, *Bird & Beckett*
A weekly jazz concert series. \$10 cover charge. Free food at the break; wine and beer available. See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Every Sunday

Which Way West?
4:30–6:30, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*
A weekly concert series offering jazz, acoustic Americana, world and classical music. \$10 per adult suggested donation; children free. No one turned away for lack of funds! See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Thursday, December 1

Canyon Moonlight
8-10, *Bird & Beckett*
A concert series featuring rockabilly, country and folk. See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Sunday, December 4

Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project History Walk.

A Trestle Ran Through It: Early Days in Glen Park Village
10-1, Meet on the plaza at the Glen Park BART station, *Bosworth and Diamond*

Tour Leader: Glen Park Historian Evelyn Rose. All ages 12 and up are welcome. Group limited to 15. Well-behaved pets on leash also welcome. Reserve by emailing GlenParkHistory@gmail.com. Severe weather cancels. Suggested donation \$5 to help support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP for \$15 per year and receive a pass to attend a future walking tour.

Monday, December 5

SFMTA and 35-Eureka bus
6 pm, *St. Johns School, 925 Chenery Street*
Bring your criticism, praise, and suggestions regarding the 35-Eureka bus line extension to a feedback meeting with SFMTA representatives Sean Kennedy, Muni Forward program manager, and Rachel Hyden, SFMTA public information officer hosted by the Glen Park Association. All are welcome!

Poetry with Open Mic
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*
Poets read, followed by open mic. See Birdbeckett.com for more details.

Tuesday, December 6

Glen Park School Tour
9-10, *Glen Park School*
Families who hope to join the Glen Park School community for the 2017-18 school year can attend an hour-long tour led by the school principal. Reservations are not needed. We encourage all prospective parents to attend our lively morning welcome in the Brompton Street yard at 8:40 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Diamond Diners lunch and social hour
Noon-1, *St. Aidan's Church*
Stained Glass Tissue Paper Ornaments
2-4, *Glen Park Library*
Make an ornament with tissue paper that will let the light shine through. For children of all ages.

LEGO Free Play
2-4, *1st Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Library*
Lego fun for the whole family. What can you build?

Thursday, December 8

CCSF Scholarship Benefit Holiday Sale
11-3, *City College of San Francisco, Horticulture Center, 370-375 Judson at Phelan Avenue*
Student projects, poinsettias, orchids, holiday wreaths, centerpieces, arrangements for sale.

Canyon Moonlight
8-10, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 1)

Saturday, December 10

Holiday Tales
1:30-3, *Glen Park Library*
The City College Storytellers bring Holiday and ethnic tales for children of all ages adapted by the City College Storytellers.

Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project Special Holiday Meeting
3-5; *Holiday Social 5-6:15, Sunnyside Conservatory, 236 Monterey Blvd.*

Speakers: Evelyn Rose, Glen Park Historian, The Unexpected Connection Between Glen Park and Opera Diva Luisa Tetrazzini; Amy O'Hair, Sunnyside Historian, New Discoveries About W.A. and Temperance Merralls and the Sunnyside Conservatory; actor Val Fachman will perform a dramatic dialogue by Amy O'Hair about Temperance Merralls. Suggested Minimum Donation \$5 to help support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a pass to attend a future walking tour.

Canyon Market 10th Anniversary
3:30-6, *Glen Park Library*

Come to the Glen Park Branch Library where Glen Park's own Canyon Market will host a food extravaganza in celebration of its 10th anniversary.

Grant Levin Duo
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*

Don't miss Grant's twice-monthly duo sessions at Bird & Beckett. One day, they'll go down in the annals of the San Francisco jazz scene as legendary.

Tuesday, December 13

Glen Park School Tour
9-10, *Glen Park School*
(See December 6)

Wednesday, December 14

Bird & Beckett Book Club
7-9, *2nd Wed. of the month, Bird & Beckett*
A book is discussed each meeting. Participants choose the next month's book. See Birdbeckett.com for more details.

Thursday, December 15

DIY Denim Bag with GoGo Craft
3:30-5:30, *Glen Park Library*
Turn a pair of old jeans into a bag. Bring old jeans if you have them. Ages 10-18. Pre-registration encouraged; space limited.

Friday, December 16

Teen/Tween Winter Reading
Glen Park Library
Through January 17. Get Reading Log at the library. For ages 10-18. Chance to win \$25 gift card or \$10 gift card; every participant gets a Chipotle gift card!

Saturday, December 17

Habitat Restoration Work Parties
9-11:30, *3rd Saturday of the month. Meet at the Rec Center off Elk Street, Glen Canyon Park*
Join the the Friends of Glen Canyon Park and SFRPD gardeners for a monthly volunteer work party of weeding, pruning and occasional planting. For more information, please email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6333. Registration required.

Holiday Glass Jar Lanterns
2-3:30, *Glen Park Library*
Materials provided. Space limited; please register in advance at 415-355-2858.

Diamond Heights Holiday Party
3-6, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive*
Holiday craft activities provided by Eleanor Elliot. Entertainment and caroling. Santa and Mrs. Claus. Hearty refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Diamond Heights Community Association, the Diamond Heights Shopping Center, Resilient Diamond Heights and St. Aidan's Church.

Sunday, December 18

LEGO Free Play
1-4, *3rd Sunday of the month, Glen Park Library*
Lego fun for the whole family. What can you build?

The Seducers - Classic, Outlaw & Honky Tonk Country Music
7:30-9:30, *Bird & Beckett*

Tuesday, December 20

SFPD Community Meetings
7–8 p.m., *location varies*
The 3rd Tuesday of every month, Ingleside Station's commanding officer, Capt. Joseph McFadden, hosts a Community Relations Forum. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe. For information, visit the website at InglesidePoliceStation.com or call the station at 415-404-4050.

Thursday, December 22

Grant Levin - Jesse Levit Quintet
7:30-9:30, *Bird & Beckett*

Thursday, December 29

Canyon Moonlight
8-10, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 1)

Friday, December 30

Feature Film: New Year's Eve
3-5, *Glen Park Library*
A stellar ensemble cast celebrates love, hope, forgiveness, second chances and fresh starts in intertwining stories told amid the pulse and promise of New York City on the most dazzling night of the year. PG-13 | 118 minutes | Light Refreshments provided.

Monday, January 2

Poetry with Open Mic
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 5)

Wednesday, January 4

Diamond Diners lunch and social hour
Noon-1, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.*
LEGO Free Play
2-4, *1st Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Library*
Lego fun for the whole family. What can you build?

Thursday, January 5

Canyon Moonlight
8-10, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 1)

Friday, January 6

Bookémon Hunt
3-6, *Glen Park Library*
A new generation of Bookémons have been discovered in San Francisco Public Libraries! Train at the library and become the best in the world, then find the Bookémon in the teen books and win a prize. Clues at Instagram: www.instagram.com/themixats-fpl/.

Saturday, January 7

Financial Planning for Your Child's College
2-3, *Glen Park Library*

This workshop is designed for parents to start financial planning for their children's college; topics include current cost of college; college funding vs. retirement savings dilemma; practical strategies to increase financial aid eligibility; and costly mistakes to avoid.

Sunday, January 8

The Seducers - Classic, Outlaw & Honky Tonk Country Music
7:30-9:30, *Bird & Beckett*

Tuesday, January 10

Chinese New Year Red Envelope Craft
2-3:30, *Glen Park Library*

Wednesday, January 11

Bird & Beckett Book Club
7-9, *2nd Wed. of the month, Bird & Beckett*
(See December 14)

Saturday, January 14

Grant Levin Duo
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 10)

Sunday, January 15

Glen Park Neighborhoods History Walk: Bovines, Dynamite, and High-Flying Shows: History of Glen Canyon Park
10-1, Meet at the Glen Park cow sign, entrance to Glen Canyon Park, *70 Elk St.*
(See December 4)

LEGO Free Play
1-4, *3rd Sunday of the month, Glen Park Library*
Lego fun for the whole family. What can you build?

Tamim Ansary presents his latest work, Road Trips: Becoming an American in the Vapor Trail of the Sixties
2-3:30, *Bird & Beckett*

Monday, January 16

Poetry with Open Mic
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 5)

Tuesday, January 17

SFPD Community Meetings
7–8 p.m., *location varies*
(See December 20)

Saturday, January 21

Habitat Restoration Work Parties
9-11:30, *3rd Saturday of the month. Meet at the Rec Center off Elk Street, Glen Canyon Park*
(See December 17)

Chinese Lion Dancers
4-4:30, *Glen Park Library*

Sunday, January 22

Blane Bachelor & friends - Lonely Planet Travel Anthology reading
2-4, *Bird & Beckett*

Monday, January 23

Reading by Tom Church
8-9, *Bird & Beckett*

Saturday, January 28

Book Art
2-3:30, *Glen Park Library*
Transform a recycled book into a cool piece of art by folding pages!

Grant Levin Duo
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*
(See December 10)

Sunday, January 29

Walker Talks!
2:30-4, *Bird & Beckett*
Walker Brents III holds his audience spellbound with his wide-ranging investigations into topics literary, mythological and otherwise — in the past, his subjects have ranged from William Blake to Bob Dylan, Shakespeare to the Shanameh, the Kalevala to the story of Layla and Majnun.

Wednesday, February 1

Diamond Diners lunch and social hour
12 noon-1, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.*