Mike Lefiti was a bear of a man and a cub of a boy. Tragically killed on June 14, a victim of a senseless and inexplicable shooting at the UPS distribution center on Potrero Hill, Big Mike, as I called him when he was a 46-year-old adult and a 16-year-old teenager, was my UPS driver and my American history student at Westmoor High School in Daly City. I'd like to say I remember Mike as a student, but his classroom performance has turned into the blur that comes with a four-decade teaching career. As a kid, though, Mike stood out. His outsized personality, his larger-than-life smile, his velvet demeanor all set him apart from his 1980s high school peers. That I can summon up, even through the haze of septuagenarian hindsight. It's certainly what I remember now, decades later – the times the grown-up Big Mike would wheel up to my house in his brown UPS truck, his megawatt power and unbridled exuberance radiating joy and adventure. His notifyDataSetChanged
The makeshift memorial of stuffed animals, flowers, hand-written notes and photos grew quickly at the Diamond Heights Shopping Center after word spread that Mike Lefiti was one of three UPS deliverymen who was shot and killed in a terrifying act of workplace violence at the delivery company’s Potrero Hill distribution center on June 14.

Big Mike, as he was affectionately known, was a fixture on the UPS delivery route up the hill from Glen Park in Diamond Heights. He often had deliveries or took breaks at the shopping center, where so many of us shop or grab a quick bite. He was friendly, quick to smile, and savagely gunned down along with two of his colleagues.

Police described the gunman as a co-worker who took his own life as officers moved in. They have not released information on what the shooter’s motive may have been.

Our hearts break for Big Mike and his grieving family and his large circle of friends. And we are deeply saddened, too, for the gunman’s two other victims. Leo Parker, the veteran UPS driver who delivers in Glen Park, witnessed the carnage. He told the Chronicle, “It was a horrible, horrible scene, and I was front and center.” As we mourn the dead, we also are thankful that the bullets bypassed Leo, an adopted Glen Park son who looks out for our neighborhood during his daily deliveries and who has built relationships with many of us along his route.

When news of the UPS shooting spread, neighborhood email lists blew up with inquiries about Leo. When word got out that he was all right, there was a collective sigh of relief, and then we could return to prayers and thoughts for those who perished. May their souls and their loved ones find peace.

There is no graceful way to segue from tragedy to a topic of celebration, but we do want to remark on the splendor that is the newly renovated Glen Canyon Recreation Center, a $14 million overhaul that brings the public park system’s first climbing wall to Glen Park. The refurbished gymnasium is fabulous, as is the new kitchen, auditorium, accessible bathrooms and building systems that should keep the place in good shape for a generation.

Also, be sure to check out the public art element, named Solar Totems. The outdoor sculpture is inspired by a 19th-century atmospheric instrument. It is indeed very cool. Starting in June, there have been a series of tours and a soft-launch, with the rec center scheduled to be fully operational in mid-July.

And, finally, in the spring issue of the Glen Park News, we featured Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, a Glen Park resident whom Mayor Ed Lee appointed in January to serve out the remainder of now-state Sen. Scott Wiener’s term on the Board of Supervisors. In June, Community College Board Trustee Rafael Mandelman kicked off his campaign to try to unseat Sheehy in next year’s June election. Mandelman placed second to Wiener in the 2010 District 8 supervisor’s election. It’s too early to tell if others will jump into the race. Let the campaigning begin!

One of the events our family always look forward to is the Glen Park Festival. This year did not disappoint. My daughter Michelle and I enjoyed the amazing food and loved seeing the vibrant array of neighborhood artists and vendors. From discussing our neighborhood history with Evelyn Rose to supporting local schools like Glen Park and Fairmount Elementary at their booths, it was a great day. I’m especially grateful to the Glen Park Association, which allowed me the chance to hear from so many neighbors at its booth.

Neighborhood Safety: One of the most-discussed challenges facing our neighborhood is property crime. Rather than simply complaining about it, Glen Park is taking real action to make our neighborhoods safer. I joined Capt. Joe McFadden of Ingleside Police Station at a meeting in the 200 block of Sussex Street, where neighbors are organizing with SF SAFE to be the eyes and ears in their community.
Upgrade Underway on PG&E Substation

The PG&E substation at Bosworth and Rousseau streets is undergoing a facelift. Originally constructed in 1935—and until recently situated adjacent to the defunct Murray Ray Oil Burner Co. at 1301 San Jose Ave.—Substation M is getting a significant upgrade. The safety and reliability makeover, which began in mid-April and is scheduled for completion in September 2019, entails upgrading transformers, switchgear and underground equipment.

“The safety of our employees and the communities we serve is PG&E’s top priority,” said Andrea Menniti, PG&E media spokesperson. The electric distribution substation serves approximately 10,000 customers in Glen Park and Bernal Heights.

The necessity of such upgrades was bought home after a fire at a substation in the northern area on Friday, April 21. The fire was caused by the failure of a circuit breaker that ignited insulation. The fire was contained by the San Francisco Fire Department and was limited to one phase of the substation.

Substation M serves as a conduit, connecting the utility company’s transmission system to its distribution one. Substation M. Small distribution substations are critical junctions and switching points for PG&E, which supplies power to customers through a grid of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants with substations, such as Substation M.

Small distribution substations are critical junctions and switching points for PG&E, which supplies power to Northern and Central California. Substation M serves as a conduit, connecting the utility company’s transmission system to its distribution one. Substations use transformers to lower the voltage of electricity that eventually finds its way to “drops,” or utility low-voltage lines, so that residents can reliably switch on their lights.

Fernando Aguilar, who lives in Bernal Heights and has worked for PG&E for nearly four decades, is the project manager. He has supervised a variety of other large-scale PG&E projects. And he has volunteered his expertise each summer in Mendocino County, where he’s upgraded electric grids for a Boys and Girls Club summer camp. As a youth, he attended the camp, situated along the Skunk Train railroad tracks between Willits and Ft. Bragg.

“I really enjoy the utility work,” said Aguilar. “Substation M renovation should have little impact on its neighbors, except when large equipment is moved in.”

“There weren’t any objections to the project during scheduled public meetings,” added Menniti. “The City has given its approval to a traffic plan, and concerned residents can call PG&E dedicated customer outreach and ask for Jodi Blasquez if they have questions.”

“In addition to upgrading equipment inside the substation,” continued Menniti, “crews will build sound and security walls and utilize low-noise technology to create a quieter facility for the neighborhood.”

PG&E Substation M, located at Bosworth and Rousseau streets. Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

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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.
The Glen Park Library expanded its open hours starting Saturday, June 17. The library will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday and Saturday mornings. This provides an additional five hours, increasing open hours from 45 to 50 each week. Stop by the first few Saturday mornings for a cup of coffee or tea, and say hello to staff and friends. Kids and families also can enjoy a drop-in playtime until noon.

San Francisco Public Library’s Summer Stride program, which started on May 13 and runs through Aug. 20, offers prizes, special free weekly programs at every neighborhood library, free shuttle excursions to local national parks, youth volunteer opportunities and college scholarships. Summer Stride includes more than 1,000 learning and exploration programs citywide for the whole family. Here at the Glen Park Library, we’re having drop-in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs, Rabbit Hole Children’s Theater, Tree Frog Treks, Magic Dan, a Four Barrel Coffee demonstration, and more.

The Library’s Summer Stride program works to combat “summer slide,” which is the tendency for students, especially those from low-income families, to lose some of their achievement gains made during the previous school year. Summer Stride not only strengthens students’ literacy skills during their summer months, it also builds important STEM skills and expands the notion of learning to include active exploration outside of library walls.

This year, the Library has a new partnership with Alamo Drafthouse Cinema—free film screenings for families as part of Kids Camp, a librarian-led summer film program in the historic New Mission Theater that includes titles, such as “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” “The Princess Bride” and “The Iron Giant.” Select screenings include giveaways, costume contests and other activities.

Summer Stride includes interactive game boards for children, teens and adults that encourage reading and allow readers to win prizes. All reading, listening, learning and library time counts toward the prize goal. Participants who read 20 hours are eligible to receive a commemorative Summer Stride tote bag.

Pop upstairs to the Glen Park Library, enter the weekly raffle, sign up and get your Summer Stride Guide to find out more about all the fabulous programs in Glen Park and at all the libraries in the city.

Summer Stride 2017 is funded by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

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

Glen Park Real Estate Market Snapshot

Glen Park doesn’t have a lot of home sales each month, but the homes that are brought to market here typically sell above the median sales price for San Francisco as a whole. In the chart at left, the orange line presents home prices for Glen Park, and the purple line presents home prices for San Francisco at large.

In January of this year, 26 homes sold in Glen Park, in February 17, in March 9, in April 10, and in May 17.
A number of significant events have occurred in the stunning ravine called Glen Canyon, with the most historic of all being the canyon's connection with inventor Alfred Nobel.

It's been nearly 10 years since I first wrote about the Giant Powder Company, the first dynamite factory in the United States, in the Winter 2007-2008 Glen Park News. Originally known as Rock Canyon or Rock Gulch, the site was quite removed from the young city and sparsely populated with milch (dairy) ranchers.

Nobel personally licensed his patent for dynamite to San Francisco pioneer merchants Bandmann, Nielsen & Co. The company leased one or two acres of land adjacent to Islais Creek, now the site of the Glen Park Recreation Center, from California railroad pioneer L.L. Robinson. Incorporated as the Giant Powder Company, the firm began production of dynamite March 19, 1868.

Staffed by three experienced Nobel employees, operations proceeded smoothly until Nov. 26, 1869, when the seven-building complex was obliterated by a sudden, massive explosion. Tragically, the chemist and teamster were killed, the chemist's assistant injured, and eight Chinese workers severely burned. The cause was never determined.

Three months later, Giant Powder was back in business west of Twin Peaks, and a few years after that moved to the East Bay. To many, dynamite had brought death and destruction into the world, a grievous fact for Nobel who was a lifelong pacifist. This is why he bequeathed his great fortune to establish the Nobel Prizes, awarded to those "...who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind."

In 1991, San Francisco civic activist and historian Jean Kortum worked with the City and the State to establish the site of Giant Powder Company in Glen Canyon as California Historical Landmark No. 1002. However, a plaque commemorating the site was never placed.

The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project (GPNHP) has also applied to the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West for a grant to support the purchase of the plaque ($2,700); a decision is anticipated in June 2017.

Glen Canyon Park will forever be linked with Nobel, and through that link to the Nobel Prizes, the most prestigious awards in the world. In the very near future, the GPNHP will be announcing a fund-raising drive to support development of additional exhibits to help provide context to the plaque, the history and impact of Nobel's invention, in addition to other events in Glen Canyon's remarkable history.

If you would like to help support these efforts financially, please contact GlenParkHistory@gmail.com for more information.
The first thing you notice is the cheerful new purple façade and matching bench in front of Pebbles, the longtime café at 2852 Diamond St. It is the exact color of the açai berry, explained new owner Marcello Waqued. The trendy health-food berry figures on the sort-of-new menu at Pebbles.

Like açai berries, Waqued’s family has roots in Brazil, although he himself was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Richmond District. His family has agreed to take over Pebbles from long-time owner Sheena Lee, who is retiring and moving away.

Lee, an immigrant from South Korea, had included a few Korean dishes on her standard coffee-shop menu of breakfast and lunch fare, snacks, pastries, cold drinks and, of course, espresso in its many forms.

It was the coffee that brought her together with the Waqued family, owners of a coffee wholesale company called Full Cup. They supplied Pebbles’ caffeine for Lee, and agreed to step in when she told them she wanted to retire but didn’t want to relinquish ownership to strangers.

The Korean dishes are gone, and, little by little, Brazilian foods are being added to the menu, notably “açai and other Brazilian superfoods,” Marcello Waqued said. The berries are added to a granola breakfast bowl and smoothies.

Another house-made Brazilian treat is pão de queijo, a cheese bread. Sometime soon, there will also be Coxinha, a fritter of shredded chicken covered in dough, then fried. Waqued plans to add a special dish each month; if it proves popular, it will remain on the menu.

Among Glen Park foodies, he noted, many people already are familiar with Brazilian food, through heritage, travel or restaurant-hopping: “The neighborhood is so receptive and knowledgeable.”

The new management is a family affair. Marcello’s brother Sergio, a recent college grad filling in until he finds a mechanical engineering job, helps out in the kitchen. Their father, Claudio, and mother, Heloisa, who still operate the coffee business, are in Pebbles on Thursdays and Fridays. Full Cup coffee, of course, remains on the menu.

Marcello Waqued, who commutes to Glen Park from his family’s home in Concord, and his wife, Elyse, who is studying nursing, have a 4-year-old son, Luca, and are expecting a second child in September. Now 28, he is a veteran of the food business. After high school, he joined his father in the coffee company, and already has operated a pizza place and a coffee shop.

At Pebbles, he is hoping to add catering and online ordering. He has started an “online presence” on Facebook (facebook.com/Pebblescafesf) and Instagram. Pebbles is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and serves breakfast and lunch all day.
Açai Joins Quinoa In Foodie Lexicon

By now, almost everybody knows that the South American grain quinoa is pronounced “keen-wah,” rather than the way it looks to the American eye. The gluten-free grain has steadily grown in popularity since the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations declared 2013 the “International Year of Quinoa.”

Now we can all practice saying the name of another trendy South American food, the purple berries that grow on palm trees in the Amazon—açai, pronounced “ah-sah-EE” (the Portuguese cedilha mark under the letter “c” indicates “soft” pronunciation).

This March, the online HUFFPOST called açai breakfast bowls “The World’s Best Healthy Breakfast,” adding, “it is not a cheap breakfast (since it comes all the way from Brazil).” It’s on the menu at Pebbles, and we can treat ourselves to one with assurance: “An ah-sah-EE bowl, please.”

Can the International Year of Açai be far away?

Business Roundup

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Pono Spa: Owner Debra Carvalho has opened Pono, a skin-care and waxing spa and boutique, next door to Pebbles at 2860 Diamond St. Carvalho has scheduled a slightly belated grand-opening party on Thursday, July 13, and anyone at the party who books an appointment will get a 20 percent discount on the treatment.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of San Francisco’s hippie heyday, Carvalho is offering “Summer of Love” facials, which feature aromatics and candles reminiscent of the scents of that era. The boutique includes a section for men’s products.

You can book appointments by phone (415-770-9088) or online at ponoboutique.com. Spa services are available Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The boutique also is open Mondays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Glen Park Hardware: Remodeling has finally happened, and the updated shop reopened on June 17. Owner Aaron Esquivel had to postpone the temporary closure until late May, when the new flooring (it looks like wood, but it’s vinyl) and custom-built double-deep shelving became available.

The changes make room for more stock in the shop at 685 Chenery St. Check it out.

The new shelves and wider aisles at Glen Park Hardware. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

REAL ESTATE WRAP-UP

Median Sales Price - Single Family Homes

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Glen Park</th>
<th>SF County</th>
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<td>06/2017</td>
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RECENT SALES
- 225 9th Street #B - SOMA (Represented Seller)
- 3900-3902 22nd Street – Noe Valley (Represented Seller)
- 4484 Calernbar Rd – Paradise, CA (Represented Buyer)
- 3200 Washington – Alameda (Off Market, Represented Both Sides)

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.

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This is a stellar year for local gardeners. We had a glorious rainy season, and now our plants (and the weeds) are blooming vigorously. You can pull all those weeds later, but right now I think the only valid response to this cornucopia is to go shopping for more plants!

This column is about how to pick plants that will work for Glen Park gardens and how to plant your new treasures. It includes a select list of the fabulous nurseries in this area. (See next page.)

Many plant varieties thrive here—it's almost easier to know what not to buy.

Avoid plants that set fruit or flower only after a long, freezing winter. For instance, spring-blooming bulbs are like annuals here.

Desert plants struggle with our winter rains. But that leaves almost everything else that enjoys a moderate Mediterranean climate with fog and dry summers. Below are some factors to consider that may help you sort out what to buy.

What's with zones? I ignore them, but some gardeners find them useful. The USDA weather zone for gardeners (10a in Glen Park) indicates the average minimum winter temperature—that’s it.

Sunset Magazine climate zones (17 in Glen Park) are based on several factors, including rainfall. But the most useful thing is to understand the environment you are gardening in.

What is the soil like, how much sunlight do you have, how much wind, how much water are you prepared to provide in summer?

Soil—really important. Glen Park soil is mainly clay and often stony, rarely sandy. Clay soil is rich, but needs amending with mulch.

Stony and sandy soils also benefit from mulching. Most plant labels simply say “well-draining soil.” That’s why you compost and mulch. Look after your soil and your plants will flourish.

How much sun, shade or wind do you have? Watch the light during the day, then read the plant label—sun-loving plants rarely succeed in shade, and vice versa. Some plants, like maples, don’t like harsh winds.

Water. Really important. Our summers are dry. If you buy plants that require regular water, you will have to water them throughout the dry season. And frankly, all plants require water when they are newly planted, for at least a year. Even “drought-tolerant” plants need some water during the dry season. Read that label and ask at the nursery.

Plant your acquisitions as soon as you can. Dig a hole wider and a tad deeper than the container. Water the hole you have dug. Wait until it drains then knock your plant out of the pot. Gently tease out the roots a little, as you want them to grow down into the soil. Then add one-half to one gallon of water. The moisture needs to get down to the roots. Keep an eye on your newbies; they will need regular water.

Garden Club members Paula Conrey, Steve Steinberg, Keith Galli, Judith Presley with Pepe, Kay Hamilton Estey, Adrienne Lacau, Darlene Shadel and Irene Ogus after touring five gardens.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Keller

Please support our Advertisers; they support us!
ow to the fun part. Here is a small selection of recommended nurseries. Check out the websites for directions and hours. Note that this is the tip of the iceberg as far as Bay Area nurseries go. If you have a favorite nursery I have missed or a plant sale you recommend, please let me know, and I will publish the information at a later date. Enjoy!

Flowercraft Garden Center
This is the closest mid-size nursery to Glen Park. Varied selection of well-known annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, succulents and shade plants. Prices are mid-range. (550 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco CA 94124; flowercraftgc.com)

Flora Grubb Gardens
Flora and her team assemble an enticing selection of unusual plants, furniture, contemporary planters and decorative items. Many of the plants are new to Glen Park gardeners but all work well in this environment. A stunning place with great coffee and helpful staff. Prices can be high, but the quality and variety are far above average. (1634 Jerrold Ave., San Francisco CA 94124; floragrubb.com)

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery
Known as Berk Hort to its aficionados, it has a huge selection of healthy plants organized in easy-to-find sections. Staff is a bit thin on the ground, but helpful. Just roaming in this nursery is an education. Plant choices range from standard favorites to rare or new plants. Prices average to high. (1310 McGee Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703; berkeleyhort.com)

East Bay Nursery
A sizeable, well organized nursery with a large bonsai section. Another wonderful place to wander. Prices average to high. (2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702; eastbaynursery.com)

Annie’s Annuals & Perennials
To die for. Prepare yourself for plant geek heaven, as Annie concentrates on new varieties as well as old favorites. There are gorgeous displays gardens through which you will glimpse the thousands of healthy 4-inch potted plants. This cornucopia is at first overwhelming, but the friendly staff explain the organization of the nursery clearly.

Regan Nursery
Regan’s is noted for its huge selection of roses, but it also carries many other plants including drought-tolerant California natives. (4268 Decoto Rd., Fremont, CA 94555; regannursery.com)

Half Moon Bay Nursery.
Another large nursery. Lots of small starter standard plants, perennials, grasses, trees, shrubs, bonsai and roses. Worth the drive. Parking is available, and prices are average to low. To avoid a scary westbound left turn across traffic, drive down Highway 1 to Half Moon Bay, then east on Highway 92, watch for the entrance on your right. (11691 San Mateo Rd., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019; hmbnursery.com)

There are even maps on the shopping carts. Drink the free coffee, have a doughnut, relax and start collecting. This is a destination spot—it’s fun to visit with a group of friends. The mail-order website itself is a trip and very useful. Prices medium to high. (740 Market Ave., Richmond, CA 94801;anniesannuals.com)

Glen Park Gardener Shares Nursery Tips

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On the Road to Glen Park History

The concept of Glen Park as a transit hub may seem a modern development. Yet, based on preliminary research, our transportation history may be surprisingly older than we ever believed.

In 1776, Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza led the expedition that selected the locations for the Presidio and Mission Dolores. Afterward, they marched “… three leagues south, southwest and west, rounded the hills and came to a little arroyo [Father] Palou had named Arroyo de San Bruno.” A league equals approximately three miles.

Anza’s expedition is the first recorded European passage through the Bernal Gap, a natural dip or saddle between Fairmount and Bernal hills. Today’s Bernal Cut, where San Jose Avenue runs between Randall and Natick streets, was first carved out of the gap in the early 1860s, during construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. The description “south, southwest and west, rounded the hills” could also describe the transit corridor we know today: south from Mission Dolores along Guerrero Street to San Jose Avenue, then continuing through the Bernal Cut before crossing under Interstate 280. San Jose Avenue then angles southwesterly toward Daly City, Colma, San Bruno and beyond, to San Jose.

By general consensus, this is the approximate route of El Camino Real (the King’s Road). Also referred to as the Mission Road or San Jose Road, it follows California State Road 82 through San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Today it is still called El Camino Real. Initially, the road was a footpath connecting the 21 Spanish missions from San Diego to Sonoma.

After examining several vintage maps of San Francisco and comparing them to today’s street system, we believe we have made a discovery that adds significantly more detail to the route of El Camino Real through the Bernal Gap.

An 1856 survey map of the Rancho San Miguel for landowner José de Jesús Noé shows a road extending from upper right to lower left. Near the upper right, the road separates into the “San Jose Road Used in 1850–52” and “San Jose Road.” The two roads then merge before entering a tangle of alternate routes at a “Branch of Islais Creek” near a “Large Rock.” Islais Creek now runs underground through the village of Glen Park just north of Bosworth Street; the large rock appears to have been in the area of today’s Muni J-Church stop on San Jose Avenue near the Glen Park BART station.

Four years later, in 1860, real estate auctioneers H.A. Cobb and R.A. Sinton issued a map for lands sold for the trustees of the Islais and Salinas Water Works Company. We again see large rocks near Islais Creek, now surrounded by several structures. Above this complex, we see a dogleg-shaped route labeled “Old San Jose Road” that splits from the “New San Jose Road or Telegraph Road,” the latter being today’s Mission Street. It was this map that began to reveal the pieces of the puzzle.

First, we superimposed the 1856 Noé survey map over a topographic map, which shows the contours of the landscape, the rolling hills and dales in our region before development. From the flatter lands south of Mission Dolores, the roads in the Noé map pass along what appear to be the contours of least resistance on the western (Glen Park) side of the Bernal Gap.

Next, we overlaid the 1856 Noé survey map over a modern OpenStreet Map. The result was thrilling! The “San Jose Road Used in 1850–52” on the Noé map splits off where today’s Guerrero Street and San Jose Avenue merge near 28th and Day streets. The 1850–52 road then crosses Dolores Street diagonally near 30th Street, then to Chenery near Randall Street. It next curves between Chenery and Arlington before rounding the bend to the southwest toward Diamond, much like Chenery does today between Roanoke and Carrie Streets. Therefore, Chenery and Arlington appear to have first arisen from the “San Jose Road Used in 1850–52” on the Noé map—and likely earlier.

The other road that continues past this split is today’s San Jose Avenue, labeled on the Noé map as “San Jose Road.” This road turns southwest along a route that directly overlays today’s Wilder Street.

As both Old and New San Jose Roads turn to the southwest, they mix up in the “tangle.” When laid over a modern street map, the top route of the tangle follows an overgrown alley that begins at Chenery near Carrie Street and exits at Diamond near today’s Glen Park Community Garden. This old route continues across Diamond, arcs over to what

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
would become Brompton Avenue, then back to Diamond Street near the modern San Jose Avenue onramp to Interstate 280. The route immediately below the alley closely matches the modern alignment of today’s Chenery and Diamond intersection—first represented as the dog-leg in the 1860 Cobb and Sinton map.

Why the tangle? Travelers likely needed alternate routes for negotiating both a minor creek coming down the Diamond Street hill and the more significant Islais Creek, which by some accounts could be a deep and treacherous waterway.

These routes—particularly the “Old San Jose Road in 1850–52”—may represent not only the general paths of the original route of El Camino Real of the Spanish mission system, but possibly the route followed by Anza in 1776 as well.

As years passed, the origins of these routes were largely forgotten. Our neighborhood has a long history of being dismissed as a cow pasture populated with blue-collar workers, or as a “bucolic backwater,” as one of the Gum Tree Girls who helped save Glen Canyon Park from freeways, Joan Seiwald, likes to relate. In 1859, an anonymous writer in Hutchinson's California Magazine described the route in an article entitled, “A Jaunt of Recreation: Between the Mission Dolores and the Ocean House,” [including the Fairmount Heights, Glen Park and Sunnyvale districts] there are no objects of striking interest, except, perhaps the San Francisco Industrial School [site of today’s San Francisco City College], recently erected for the benefit of depraved juveniles …”

To consider that Glen Park’s oldest streets—Chenery, Arlington, Diamond and Wilder—have origins as far back as the first years of the United States, forming part of the earliest route for travelers between the missions, is mind-boggling indeed.

The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project will continue this research in an effort to confirm this exciting discovery, and will keep you apprised of the results.

Overlay of the 1856 Noé Survey Map (Map 1, outlined in black) over a modern OpenStreet map (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2017). Aqua blue lines added to identify creeks. The route of the “San Jose Road in 1850–52” curves between Chenery and Arlington, then turns to the “tangle” at Chenery and Diamond streets and Brompton Avenue; the “San Jose Road” follows today’s San Jose Avenue through the Bernal Cut before turning sharply onto Wilder Street.

Noé map from the San Francisco Homestead Books, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

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Trendy bars and restaurants have come and gone in the dozen or so years since Glen Park has become a well-known and highly desirable neighborhood in San Francisco. One stalwart constant in the Glen Park village since 1926 has been Glen Park Station bar. That was the year the building was moved from some other unknown part of the city. In fact, its very authenticity might make it hip and trendy itself.

Tom Coulter and his business partner and best friend of almost 30 years, Rene Lecour, now 63, purchased the bar in 1990, and the building itself in 1997. They didn’t change anything except to clean it up a bit and paint the walls. Originally the floors were carpeted, but they’ve been replaced with wood, many times over.

Tom, whose last home was in San Carlos, died on March 30 of pneumonia and a blood infection. He was 72.

After a memorial observance at the bar on April 15, Lecour, now the sole owner, sat down (on a barstool) to reminisce about her friend. With her was her daughter, Catherine, 26, who has been taking on increasing duties at the bar for the past two years.

Rene told of Tom’s love of conversation. Years ago, when he was in college, Glen Park resident Jeff Sparks would frequent the bar to study and drink—coffee. Tom was a staunch Republican and he would get Jeff started on politics. They were always on opposite sides and they would have at it. Tom would often counter their disagreements with, “Now if only you had caught me when I was drinking, I would have made a much better argument!”

With the passage of time, Tom, an admitted alcoholic, stopped drinking. He also voted for Barack Obama. The older he got, the more Democratic he became. He was very pro-choice and would say he didn’t know how people could tell others what to do with their bodies. He was very adamant and that would sway his vote.

The bar was, and continues to be, a happy place. When Tom was tending bar on weekends during his drinking years, two characters, Bill and Roland, used to come in. They’d “buy” Tom a drink (Scotch). As soon as Tom set the drink down to tend bar, Bill or Roland would drink it. So then they’d “buy” Tom another drink. Tom thought he’d outsmart this ruse and placed his drink on the back counter, out of reach, and get busy again.

When Tom could finally turn his attention back to that drink, he found that Bill and Roland had used a load of straws to build a bridge from the bar to the back counter, where the giant straw would terminate in Tom’s drink. This procedure was repeated over and over for years.

Kidding aside, Tom had his standards. All male bartenders must wear ties. No one knows that better than Richard Underhill, a 20-year veteran bartender at Glen Park Station. Other important rules: zero tolerance regarding drugs, and also fighting—no matter who threw the first punch. Thus the customers are a self-regulating and de-escalating group.

The clientele covers every demographic, “from 21 to 99!” says Rene. Blue collar, white collar and everything in between; lots of teachers and even a politician or two. Customers say things like, “I could go to any bar for a drink—I come here to see my friends, the other folks, and for the atmosphere.”

Glen Park Station has a colorful history. Its first year, 1926, was at the height of Prohibition. Rumor has it that it operated as a speakeasy. There was a door dividing the front of the establishment from the rear. The front area was presumably a sort of coffee shop. A secret knock on the door would allow certain customers access to enjoy the true intention of Glen Park Station.
The Death of Tom Coulter Felt at Glen Park Station

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The owner at that time, Joe Veloni, lived upstairs and raised nine kids in a three-bedroom apartment. Joe hung out a lot with a couple of wannabe gangster buddies.

Today, whooping and hollering can be heard coming from the bar over a big game, and many photos of athletes hang on the walls. But Glen Park Station was never billed as a sports bar. Tom and Rene dubbed it an upscale neighborhood bar.

There's a generational divide in referring to the bar. The older ones call it The Station; the younger crowd just text, “I’m at GPS.”

If there's a sad side to Glen Park Station, it's that with the passage of so much time, long-time customers—and their relatives—are passing away.

“Deaths are more frequent than weddings or baby showers. Yes, we’ve had baby showers here, too,” said Rene. Daughter Catherine added that, even when sad things happen, it doesn’t leave a bad feeling in the air at Glen Park Station.

Another sad thing was when Rene moved to North Carolina with her family in 2004, and that affected Tom deeply. Since she’s been back temporarily in Glen Park, Rene has heard wonderful things about the cohesion and friendliness of the Glen Park community. She will continue as owner of the bar, alone now, but with Catherine’s help.

As to what’s next for the bar itself, things will remain as they are, with one big exception—Tom won’t be there to share a laugh or two. ☯️

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Tom Coulter, left, with bartender Richard Underhill in front of the Glen Park Station.

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Japanese-American Internment Camps:

Steve Uchida and Ko Takemoto, two native Californians with Glen Park connections, have family histories stretching back to World War II Japanese-American internment camps.

This year, on the 75th anniversary of the removal of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who lived on the West Coast, both men have done more than a little reflecting.

“My mother was born in California and graduated from Alameda High School two years before the president issued his executive order,” said Steve Uchida, a Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteer. “Even now she doesn’t like talking about it.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, two months after the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The order required Japanese-American citizens and legal residents to leave their homes with what they could carry and report to either to Santa Anita racetrack, near Los Angeles, or Tanforan racetrack in San Bruno.

Cramped, dirty horse stables, called Assembly Centers, served as temporary shelters until uprooted detainees could be transported away from the coast. At the inland relocation camps, the government contended, they would no longer be security threats.

By the summer of 1942, 77,000 citizens, and 43,000 legal or illegal resident aliens, had been moved at least 60 miles inland. Anyone one-twelfth Japanese could be rounded up and exiled to one of the 10 hastily built internment camps located throughout the West and as far east as Arkansas.

Steve Uchida’s mother, Kiyoko, was born in Alameda in 1923; she was 19 when she was sent to the camp at Heart Mountain, Wyom. Ko Takemoto, born in Santa Clara in 1934, was 8. He was sent with his family to Topaz, Utah.

Both were Nisei, second-generation Japanese Americans. Both were American citizens.

By the winter of 1942, the two were incarcerated in desolate, hastily built camps in the semi-arid deserts and high plains in the center of the American West.

The Uchida Family

Kiyoko Uchida turns 94 this summer. Her son returned in April to Pacific Grove, where he grew up, to care for her. Steve Uchida, a volunteer who has helped deliver the Glen Park News, had lived on Monterey Boulevard for the past 15 years.

Before she was uprooted by war hysteria, the young Kiyoko Oba led a bobby-sox adolescence in Santa Cruz.

“My mom spun Glenn Miller 78s and enjoyed listening to radio dramas such as ‘Inner Sanctum,’” said Uchida, a retired postal worker who worked as a mail handler at the U.S. Postal Service’s Processing and Distribution Center on Evans Avenue. “After graduating from high school, she attended Armstrong Business School and trained to become a secretary.”

The Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, with all its attendant humiliations, interrupted this.

“Like most people, my mother made the best of a bad situation,” Uchida said. “Emarrassment, shame, even anger all factored in, and I’d imagine some people went crazy.”

Not Kiyoko.

“My mom made lifelong friends at Heart Mountain, and for years she and my dad drove to Disneyland to share reunions with the Murakami family,” said Uchida. “After the war, my parents moved on with their lives. They were proud to be able to afford a Buick. They’d take me, my brother and sister to Yosemite to hike and to Niles Canyon to camp, even to San Francisco, where they had season tickets to 49ers games at Kezar Stadium.”

Kiyoko was released from Heart Mountain in early 1945, sponsored by the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper, where she was hired as a secretary. In Ohio she met her husband, Kiyoshi Uchida, who had just been mustered out of the U.S. Army.

“My father had a buddy whose girlfriend was my mom’s second cousin and Cleveland roommate,” explained Uchida.

The young couple returned to Pacific Grove, where they married in 1947. They honeymooned in Mexico, then began a dry cleaning business that still thrives.

The Takemoto Family

Ko Takemoto’s father, Kiso, earned his living as a sharecropper on Stanford University property. He and his wife, Inoyo, grew strawberries and shared profits with the man who leased the land from the university. American landowners had sought immigrant labor for fertile California farms as early as the 1890s.

Kiso Takemoto emigrated to the United States in 1918 and married Inoyo Tsurusaki. Besides Ko, they had three more children, one of whom, Kei, joined the U.S. Air Force after World War II and was discharged as a staff sergeant. Kei Takemoto went on
Reflecting on a Dark Cloud 75 Years Later

to become an airline mechanic and a flight-test engineer.

"Except for my mother, who died in an accident a few months before Pearl Harbor, we all were sent to Topaz," said Ko Takemoto, now 82. He was 8 when they were taken first to Tanforan and then to the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah, where they stayed until he was 11.

"Sand blew through the cracks in hurriedly built tar-papered barracks walls and covered everything," said Takemoto. "Some people said we were at Topaz for our own protection, but then why were the rifles pointed in, not out?"

The Takemotos shared the compound at Topaz with 8,000 other internees, in barracks that each housed several families. Each block had 10 barracks, a recreation hall and a women's and a men's latrine. Kiso Takemoto hung bed sheets for privacy. Furniture consisted of army cots, mattresses and blankets. Chairs and tables were constructed from scrap wood. There were two elementary schools, and one combined junior-senior high school.

"We had pot-bellied coal stoves, so in the winter we could stay warm," recalled Takemoto. "The authorities brought in teachers for us, as well as using Japanese internees, and when my father seriously injured his eye chopping wood, the military transported him to Salt Lake City for medical attention."

If the ignominy felt by adults expelled from their homes manifested itself mostly in passive resignation and dignified stoicism, some children had a different take.

"While I can only imagine what it was like as an adult," said Takemoto, "as a child it didn't bother me all that much."

While radios and cameras were forbidden, pretty much everything else was OK. By January 1943, 105 young men from Topaz had volunteered for the military, serving with distinction in segregated Army units, allowed to serve only in the European theater. Sometimes these servicemen, in full uniform, would visit their confined Topaz relatives.

Camp residents were permitted to take art classes, tend vegetable gardens, attend dances and sumo wrestling matches, even obtain passes and ride a bus to Delta, the nearest Utah town where they could shop.

Post-Camp Life

By 1943, the government began encouraging those who had friends in the heartland to go and live with them, which explains Kiyoko Uchida's move to Ohio. Internees could also attend college and obtain jobs, as long as they didn't return to the West Coast.

Ko Takemoto remained in Utah for another two years.

"I didn't like baseball, which was very popular with the boys, but I enjoyed building model airplanes from scrap wood," Takemoto recalled.

Ko and his grade school friends pretended they were characters from movie adventure serials, which they'd bing on during Saturday afternoon matinees.

After VJ Day, the government transported them back to San Francisco, where they moved into public housing at Candlestick Point, near the Bay. A landscape gardener, the elder Takemoto drove to the Peninsula each day, tending 1950s suburban gardens while his children attended San Francisco public schools. Ko graduated from Mission High School in 1953.

His father played the shakuhachi, a Japanese flute; Ko mastered the saxophone and clarinet. He majored in music at San Francisco State University, where he met the late Howie Dudun, a regular Bird & Beckett jazz saxophone player.

Hired by the San Francisco Unified School District in 1959, Takemoto taught music to two generations of Glen Park, Sunnyside and Noe Valley teenagers at Herbert Hoover Middle School and Lowell High School.

"I had 90 students in my Hoover band class," he said, "and parents would tell me how they wanted to enroll at Hoover because of its music program."

During school breaks, he hit the road with a 15-member band, barstomring throughout Northern California, performing for Japanese American audiences, often field workers such as his parents had been before the war.

"My Mission High friends formed a Japanese band, and for 40 years while I taught, we'd climb into a Greyhound and entertain at Obon festivals," said Takemoto, referring to Buddhist festivals honoring ancestors. "We'd play as far away as Watsonville, Fresno and Bakersfield."

He has been married for 53 years, and has three grown children. "I think my education suffered at Topaz," he said, without bitterness, "but I had a pretty good childhood and a good life."

The Take-Away

In honor of his father, Takemoto donated to a San Bruno memorial for those held at the Tanforan race track. Still, he looks back 75 years and underlines one salient fact: "Not one Japanese American was ever found to be a spy or saboteur."

Steve Uchida, now 69, has visited California’s Manzanar War Relocation Center.

"While the camps have long been abandoned," said Uchida, "the blueprints for camps such as Heart Mountain still exist, potentially to be used against the ‘enemy’ by virtue of their national lineage, religion or skin color."

The father of two and grandfather of four, Steve Uchida couldn't be clearer about the take-away: Where fences once locked people in, walls must not now lock people out.

"I think Japanese Americans should be among the first to stand up and support Arab Americans who may face, or soon could, the form of repression and discrimination we did.

“When Americans see or read about these internment camps, I think they should not be saying, ‘Isn’t that a quaint oddity.’ Rather, they should say, ‘Never again in my country.’”

---

"Exclusion: The Presidio’s Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration" is on view at the Heritage Gallery at the Presidio Officers’ Club, 50 Moraga Ave., San Francisco; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free, and the show remains open to the public through March 2018.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act to compensate those people of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in World War II internment camps. The legislation offered a formal apology from the United States government, and authorized payment of $20,000 (tax free) to each surviving victim.

One year earlier, the California State Board of Education, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the writing of the 1787 U.S. Constitution, adopted the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools. The document has been revised often, most recently in 2016. The 2009 revision posits the following for eleventh-grade American history:

“The relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II on the grounds of national security was a governmental decision that should be analyzed as a violation of their human rights.”
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GLEN PARK: OUR CITY’S HIDDEN GEM

Glen Park Elementary School

Glen Park School closed out the year with a bang! We had another fantastic year of events, fund-raising and growth as a community. Our annual fund, auction and Rainbow Runathon raised more money than we anticipated, which allows us to fund such programs as visual and performing arts, our schoolyard greening project, Education Outside classes for all students, a Fresh Snack program, a full-time librarian and much more.

The commitment of our parents is incredible, and our thanks go to everyone who helped in a classroom, organized a bake sale, chopped a vegetable, ran an experiment at a STEAM Night, or just came to events to show your love for our school. This community knows how to support its students and families, and we are so grateful for the love for our school. This community

Glen Park School is about to become even more supportive. We received a $14,000 grant from the City, through the Quality Teacher and Education Act, to develop a Wellness Center. The center will focus on helping each student to grow in his or her understanding of how to achieve personal well-being. The space houses our mentoring, Restorative Practices and PAX Good Behavior Game programs. Services include one-on-one and small-group therapy, social skills groups, lunch-bunch activities and a place for meetings and various community programs, such as the Foster Care Program, Homeless Program and health programs.

The Wellness Center will provide a confidential and safe space for all students and families who could benefit from extra services. Therapy tools and games for children are already in place, and we will purchase new furniture before the next school year begins.

The Glen Park School Parent Teacher Organization will host summer playdates for incoming kindergartners and their families. Playdates will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Glen Canyon Park Playground on Saturday, June 17; Saturday, July 15, and Sunday, Aug. 13. There will also be a welcome event with the kindergarten teachers on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 3 to 3:45 p.m. at Glen Park School.

Good luck to all of our fifth grade graduates who are moving on to middle school in August—we are very proud of you!

Have an amazing summer, everyone, and we will see you for the first day of school on Aug. 21.

Katie Ripley is the communications chair of the Glen Park School Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to glenparkschool.org. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/glenparkschool.

Sunnyside Elementary School

Welcome to summer! Our Sunnyside students go into this time of year with a little bit of sadness that the school year is done—and a lot of excitement at what the summer will bring.

So many enjoyable events happen this time of year at Sunnyside. The Glen Park Festival started off the final month of school festivities. This year our booth was hopping with neighbors and friends working on a craft project and stopping by to say hello. We are very thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Glen Park Festival.

The following weekend we had our annual Springfest Carnival. This year we had perfect weather, amazing entertainment and exciting carnival games, not to mention the great student art show and delicious bake sale. Our families are already looking forward to next year. All neighbors and friends are welcome to join us.

Directly following Springfest we had our Sunnyside Has Talent night. This year more than 90 students participated, performing magic, jumping rope, singing, dancing and lots more. It was a very entertaining evening.

Another anticipated event is our annual Rube Goldberg Day. Do you know who Rube Goldberg is? If not, ask a Sunnyside Student! All our classes will be participating in our third annual Rube Goldberg Day brought on by our Math and Science consultants, Mr. Eddie (Samaniego), and Ms. Rhiana (Maidenberg). Students will be making simple machines, and we can’t wait to see what they create.

Other concerts and performances have helped wrap up our school year. We had our music and drama classes for third through fifth grade perform songs from “Seussical the Musical.” So many fun Dr. Seuss-inspired songs. Our third graders had a recorder concert and sounded awesome.

Finally, on May 25 we celebrated our fifth grade Promotion Ceremony, as our oldest class of students prepare to move on to middle school.

We hope all our neighbors enjoy a beautiful, safe summer. School begins again on Aug. 21, one week later than normal, and we can’t wait to see what the 2017–18 school year will bring!

Kerri Spruston is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association. For more information about the school, see Sunnysidek5.org.
The first-ever Christopher Park Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. will celebrate this hidden gem of San Francisco.

The free festival will offer children’s activities, bouncy houses, Tree Frog Trek, Little Folkies, family scavenger hunt, art activities, local musicians and community resource tables.

The Friends of Christopher Park (FOCP) and the Diamond Heights Community Association (DHCA) are sponsoring this festival to provide an enjoyable community-building event for the neighborhood and beyond, and to spread the word about our beautiful park and proposed park improvements. The SF Parks Alliance awarded FOCP an Action Grant of $3,150 to create the festival, which will be an event by and for our community. To share ideas and get involved, contact Brynna McNulty, mcbrynna@gmail.com.

The Festival will provide information about the proposed renovations for the playground structures, community area and one bathroom in the recreation center funded by the 2012 Park Bond. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2018, with an estimated completion date of May 2019. To see the proposed plans, go to sfrecpark.org/george-christopher-final-concept-renderings/.

Because the park bond funds only a portion of the improvements needed in Christopher Park, the FOCP has started a campaign to raise money to repave all the unsafe pathways, upgrade the second bathroom and restore and add benches. The Recreation and Park Department will repair pathways around much of the baseball diamond this summer.

Diamond Heights Boulevard Improvements Update: Work is ahead of schedule on the many work projects along Diamond Heights Boulevard, according to Dadisi Najib, Public Works information officer. All the work segments, including repaving from Clipper Street to Sussex Street, are scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer. Updates on the work schedule can be found at sfpublicworks.org (select Projects, Diamond Heights Boulevard Improvements Project).

Redwood Sculpture: The DHCA Project List for 2017 includes many advocacy items for park improvements; pedestrian, driver and bicyclist safety along Diamond Heights Boulevard; crime and safety issues; repair of water pipes to the median islands so that plantings can continue; and our litter-prevention project. One of our beautification projects is to better highlight the Redwood Sculpture (that’s its official name) on the south side of Portola Drive at Clipper Street. The artwork was designed and created by Stefan Novak in 1968 to serve as the entrance to the new Diamond Heights model neighborhood development, and also as a safety barrier.

The sculpture, 60-by-36 feet, fits the narrow location, which drops steeply to the homes below. The design allows people to walk within it. The sculpture was funded by a $40,000 grant from the General Electric Co, which developed some all-electric homes nearby; it is owned by the San Francisco Arts Commission. The DHCA Board is exploring landmark status for the artwork, funding for restoration, trimming the trees that grow in and around it, adding lighting at night and installing a commemorative plaque.

The DHCA welcomes volunteers to help with projects. Please contact the DHCA for more information on any of the activities and projects described in this column.

Betsy Eddy is president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. Contact her at dbhcaf@gmail.com.
Recreation Center Climbs to New Heights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This park survived the 1906 earthquake; it survived a threatened reservoir by another City department; and it survived a freeway plan by yet another City department," Ginsburg said. "It survived to be what it was intended to be and what it should always be—a park."

Mayor Lee, who lives in Glen Park, thanked local residents. "I know my neighbors. They are relentless," he said. "They want natural beauty, not concrete."

Gustavo Garrard, who grew up on the 900 block of Chenery Street, just a couple of blocks from the park, is excited about the transformation and fondly remembers how important the rec center was when he was a kid.

"I'm excited because it's something new, something fresh, and I love that old gym—its history and what it represents to us," he said, despite its appearance and lack of amenities. "It was a dark, dilapidated building back then (in the late '70s and '80s). You didn't use the restroom unless you absolutely had to.

The directors, Ron Moberg, Keith Jackson and Jadine Low, were our surrogate parents during the summer months. They were responsible for all of us. Back then, you could hand them a sweatshirt as a deposit and check out a basketball, a baseball bat or a ping pong paddle. We were on the honor system, and it worked."

Garrard said the center was vital to many children from his generation, and hopes it remains that way, but he is also concerned that the "new shiny penny" will become "over-organized" and that neighborhood children will not have free access to it as he did growing up. But he remains optimistic: "It can't be anything but good for the kids. That building has a lot of soul, history and memories. Those were good days."

At the facility tour, state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), who formerly represented Glen Park on the Board of Supervisors, said the difference is like "night and day. For generations to come, it will be a treasure for the community."

The district's new supervisor, Jeff Sheehy—who also lives in Glen Park—said the facility is "a true gift, not only to our neighborhood, but to our city."

Perhaps the most stunning transformation is the gym, which smells like a forest of fresh Douglas fir (the walls) and maple (the floor). The original ceiling rafters were left intact. Instead of replacing them, workers cleaned and sanded them, then repainted them.

The floor was replaced in order to do away with years of dry rot and "dead spots," providing the much-desired bounce for basketball and volleyball players.

Ginsburg called it "the prettiest gym we now have in the system."

Park Commissioner Alan Low said that before reconstruction, "The gym was dark, leaking, it had dead spots. It was a mess. Now, it looks fantastic!"

His colleague on the commission, Kat Anderson, concurred, calling the gym and the entire center "the gem in the crown of Rec and Park."

In the end, it all worked out beautifully. "We knew what they (the community and the City) were looking for, and that meshed with our ideas," he said.

"The Glen Canyon Recreation Center renovation project is a spectacular demonstration of how we can incorporate a 21st-century design into a historic building and make it work majestically," said Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, whose department provided design and construction management services for the Recreation and Park Department.

Evelyn Rose, founder and chair of the Glen Park History Project, is "very pleased with the outcome of the renovation," she said. "On the exterior, architect William G. Merchant's original design remains intact, and the
Rec Center Redo Delights Visitors

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

new community-use wing maintains a low profile, seamlessly integrating with the original structure. The results are breathtaking!”

Rose is working to have a plaque placed on the site to commemorate the location of Alfred Nobel’s dynamite factory, the Giant Powder Company, which is California Historical Landmark No. 1002. (See Page 5.)

“We recently submitted a grant request to the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West to support purchase and shipping of the plaque,” Rose said. “We anticipate hearing results this month. We’ve also been working with the California Office of Historical Preservation and they recently approved the plaque.

“And, we’ve partnered with San Francisco Recreation and Park to install the plaque inside the Recreation Center. We are still discussing options for the location.”

Outside the building, artist Charles Sauer proudly explained his City-commissioned Solar Totems to anyone who asked—including the mayor. The three totems, hollowed-out reclaimed redwood logs, are a solar record of each day.

As the sun beams down on the log, it burns a line across the center, leaving an imprint that records that day’s weather. The mechanism connected to the log moves every night at 8 p.m. to ready itself for the next day. There are three logs for three years—June to June. When they are completed, they will stand as a piece of historic, scientific artwork for canyon visitors.

Sauer said the totems are “sunshine reporters, leaving us a record of atmospheric conditions.” The day of the tour, June 5, was a beautiful sunny day, but Sauer knows the weather won’t always be as such: “A passing cloud can cause a skip,” he said.

One big “skip” may come on August 21, when a solar eclipse is scheduled to occur at 9:01 a.m., according to timeanddate.com. It will last approximately 2 1/2 hours, but will only be a partial eclipse in San Francisco. The eclipse will leave its mark on Sauer’s solar structure.

After all the dignitaries left, Oskar Rosas, recreation coordinator for the center, walked to the new reception area, enveloped with still-sparkling glass, leaned back in a swivel chair, and admired his new work space.

“Compared to what it was, this is the Taj Mahal of San Francisco Rec and Park,” he said. In the near future, he hopes the center will be a place where increasing numbers of locals go for volleyball, basketball, yoga, Zumba and other recreational activities.

As Rosas envisioned a future that in the recent past seemed painfully distant, construction workers closed the doors, put up a “Pardon our dust” sign and went back to work, striving to meet the mid-July deadline when the facility will be open to the public. ✤

Thinking of a Different Pace of Life? Think Brisbane!

Brisbane is nestled on the hillside overlooking San Francisco but has retained its small-town feel. Kids walk safely to school yet downtown San Francisco and SFO are just minutes away!

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With approximately 5000 sqft of living space, the main unit provides 5 bedrooms & 4.5 bathrooms with a master suite. The main level has a gourmet kitchen with a large island, a family area with a gas fireplace and a spacious living/dining area that flows out onto the expansive viewing deck. The au pair unit has 2 bedrooms and a bathroom with a full kitchen. There is a large 2 car garage with additional parking spaces on the drive.

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In anticipation of the July reopening of the Glen Canyon Recreation Center, the Holstein dairy cow sign at the entrance to the park has been freshly laminated with weatherproof paint and burnished with an anti-tagging veneer. The sign, below the Elk Street tennis courts, welcomes park users entering Glen Park’s 70-acre playground and natural area.

But the Holstein’s image signals far more than the park’s entrance.

“For a century, the City and County of San Francisco was the hub of the California dairy industry,” Glen Park historian Evelyn Rose wrote in her article, “Cows in the City.” “The Gold Rush established milk as liquid gold.”

Charles Gough was an early San Francisco milkman and could earn up to $4 a gallon, equivalent to almost $100 per gallon in today’s currency. Returning Angels Camp placer miners binged on Gough’s milk punch—a rum, brandy, sugar, lemon and egg concoction,” Rose wrote.

By the 1860s, John Gardiner’s ranch was located in Glen Canyon. He’d graze his cows below the present Christopher Playground in Diamond Heights. Robert Clark had a dairy near the Recreation Center. There were other spreads, too, owned by George Ulshofer, Henry Wilson and Jacob Rick.

Old timers recall the best-known local dairy, owned by former Mayor George Christopher, the Greek-American who engineered the Giants leaving New York for San Francisco in 1958.

“Cows owned by the Christopher Dairy—producers of Ronald Reagan’s self-reported favorite milk—ranged along the slopes of Glen Canyon adjacent to O’Shaughnessy Boulevard as late as the 1940s,” according to Rose.

Milk prices leveled off by the turn of the 20th century, Rose wrote. In the early morning, milk ranchers’ wagons would deliver their product to milk factors at the Third and Howard streets Milkman Exchange. “By 1875 there were about 150 milk dealers in the City and County of San Francisco,” Rose wrote in another article.

By 1904, Rose wrote in “Cows in the City,” “within the city limits there were 4,200 bovine residents producing 13,000 gallons of milk a day.”

Milk was also a cottage industry. Many residents of Glen Park and the Sunnyside kept cows.

“Cows were allowed to roam and housewives would have to look for them,” Amy O’Hair wrote in “Cows in Sunnyside,” published on her website, SunnysideHistory.org.

Sunnyside had good grazing, with above-ground creek water, and by the early 1900s San Francisco had established boundaries within which wandering livestock were allowed to roam. These boundaries, O’Hair wrote, were called “the pound limit, a two-cow limit.”

Predictably, entrepreneurial dairymen, who kept and bred cows and who sold to dealers that distributed milk within the city, lobbied City Hall for exceptions to the double-cow limit.

“Lost cows were lost capital,” O’Hair wrote, “and as late as the 1920s Sunnyside residents on the north side were irked by damage done to their gardens from cows that had wandered over the hill from farms near Glen Park.”

Dairy ranching was hazardous, sometimes lethal, O’Hair wrote in “The Ballad of Ellen Fuery.”

The Southern Pacific ran its railroad tracks from Third and Townsend streets through the Sunnyside, O’Hair writes, on a line that extended south to San Luis Obispo. On a morning in 1896, Ellen Fuery, a 52-year-old milkmaid, was killed by a train traveling at dangerous speeds through her neighborhood. “Fuery took her cows across the tracks for better pasture,” O’Hair wrote. At the time she was killed, she owned five cows and sold milk locally to neighbors and milk dealers.

Rose and O’Hair, the guiding lights of the Glen Park Neighborhoods Dairy Queens: The Cows of Glen Canyon

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smile igniting my tunnel entrance.

The doorbell would sound, usually around 5 p.m.

Mike always stood, Gentle Ben-like, ready to deliver a shipment of wine for my wife or a chamois shirt for me.

He'd make me sign for the wine, always inquiring, “How's Mrs. Schneider?”

Mike was eventually reassigned to the other side of O'Shaughnessy Boulevard, but I'd continue running into him at Diamond Heights Shopping Center after mailing a letter or depositing a retirement check. He'd be sorting packages in the rear of his truck, wearing his signature UPS cut-offs and short-sleeve brown shirt.

I'd always have to share him with a bounty of appreciative customers.

We'd banter for a while. Sometimes he conflated me with Mr. Morosi, who taught senior-year government. Sometimes he'd confuse me with Mr. Goldberg, who taught junior-year Juvenile and the Law.

I never bothered to correct him, not like when I probably red-penciled him all those years ago if he mixed up Andrew Jackson with Andrew Johnson.

Predictably, Mike went on to have a family, three adoring children – two sons and a daughter. He'd achieved a rich and productive life. As Westmoor's Social Science Department knew he would, he became a role-model citizen, an inquisitive and decent man, all ingredients threading their way through our best lessons.

Mike eventually moved to Hercules and chalked up 17 years with UPS.

A few years ago I ran into him on Crags Court, near its community garden. His truck was parked, which in itself wasn't unusual. He sat behind the wheel, taking bites from a sandwich.

I asked him what was up.

“I like coming here for lunch,” he answered.

No wonder.

In the distance, Mike could see the eastern slope of Glen Canyon descend into rich grasslands. Hawks scouted for their own noon-time meals. Down the hill, craggy rocks pierced the soil. A California oak stood stolidly, reminding me of him.

You can't have taught as long as I did without running into former students. The AT&T lineman who scales utility polls in my backyard, the Comcast technician who drops by and fixes my Internet, the the postman who pushes mail through my letterbox. “Are you Mr. ……….?" each has asked me.

I always preempt them.

“Where'd you go to school?” I'd ask.

Mike was special, though. He'd be positioned somewhere between the Safeway and Creighton's in the shopping center, verifying addresses on packages, stacking cartons on dollies, or simply passing the time of day with his legions of friends.

Like Mike, two other UPS drivers died that dreadful morning. Two others were wounded, and the shooter committed suicide as police officers approached him.

The day after the shooting, I sat outside a dentist's office with my wife. We were a few minutes early for an appointment. A stack of packages sat on a cart in front of our bench. A UPS driver moved behind them. Soon he pushed them toward an elevator.

“How you guys doing?” I asked.

“Hanging in there,” he said, “It's hard.”

He looked at me for a long moment.

“You knew Mike?”

“He was a my student.”

“At Westmoor?”

I nodded.

On the day before the shooting, on June 13, my doorbell had buzzed, only a few miles from the chaos. I didn't recognize the UPS driver. He struggled, carrying two cartons of wine. Watching him, I thought Big Mike, taken from us now, wouldn't have lost a breath.
Dairy Queens: The Cows Of Glen Canyon Yesteryear

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History Project, recently teamed up on a puppet, a cuddly cow—a playmate for the spruced-up Glen Canyon Holstein sign.

“I named her Glenda,” said O’Hair. “Glenda is not exactly a traditional cow name. Glenda’s an old cow who has seen a lot of canyon history.”

Glen Park and Sunnyside may have lost cows to history, but Rose and O’Hair aren’t about to allow history to lose the memory of neighborhood cows.

“We used Glenda at this year’s Education Day at the annual San Francisco History Days events at the Old Mint,” O’Hair wrote in an email. “The kids who attended Education Day engaged with Glen Park history through our interactive puppet show.”

“Glenda seemed to work best with kids from about 8 to 12,” said O’Hair. “Evelyn and I have a conversation, Evelyn recalling some of the many exciting events in Glen Canyon, such as the dynamite factory (see Rose’s “(Hi)stories” column on Page 5) and the crowds of Sunday visitors in the early 20th century.”

O’Hair bought Glenda from Folkmanis Puppets in Berkeley. But she wasn’t perfect right out of the paddock. “Glenda didn’t have an udder,” said O’Hair, so she reached for her sewing kit. “I crafted one of fabric and added it.”

Sitting beneath the refurbished Holstein sign one day in February, long-time Chilton Avenue resident Shauna Woods waxed nostalgic about cows as she took a break from walking Sadie, her 12-year old dog, in the upper reaches of Glen Canyon.

Recalling her childhood in Southern California, Woods said, “I grew up in the 1960s on a one-block, dead-end street, about a mile from our local dairy, and remember milk being delivered to our house in glass bottles each week. Our milkman was the father of one of my elementary school friends.

“I remember going on field trips to the dairy, petting the cows and watching them being milked. My family often drove past the cows grazing. The dairy is long gone now, replaced by housing.”

Here, as well, Holsteins were sacrificed for houses. But even though the only cows left are a sign and a sock puppet, Woods said, “Sadie gets to walk each day in beautiful Glen Canyon.”

Learn More

Readers who want to learn about Glen Park and Sunnyside cows, and much more, can sign up for the following walks:

• “Sunnyside History Walk: The Early Years,” led by Amy O’Hair, scheduled on July 8 (SunnysideHistory@gmail.com).

• “Bovines, Dynamite, and High-Flying Shows: The Amazing History of Glen Canyon Park,” led by Evelyn Rose, Aug. 27 (GlenParkHistory@gmail.com).

Or check out these links:


• www.trampsofsanfrancisco.com/cows-san-francisco/

• glenparkhistory.wixsite.com/glenparkhistory

• sunnysidehistory.org/2015/11/08/cows-in-sunnyside-2/
As promised in a previous column, I am following up on my solar panel installation experience.

But before I do that, here’s your Glen Park real estate roundup.

With very little inventory between Feb. 3 and May 9, 2017, there were 12 sales—11 single-family homes and a condominium. That is less than half the number of sales in the previous quarter. Definitely a slow start to the year. Possibly some election backlash—it’s been a very strange first few months of the year, all around.

The average selling price for single-family homes in Glen Park during this period was $1,770,700, which is up slightly from last quarter. The average list price was $1,532,300, which puts sales prices at about 14 percent over asking. That’s well above the 8 percent over asking for the combined sales in 2016.

The average days on market for this period was 17, compared to the average for all of last year of 35 days on market. As of this writing, six homes are pending (in contract but still waiting to close escrow) and seven homes currently for sale, so we are already looking at a much busier next quarter.

There’s also been lots of talk about a slowdown in the housing market, but I honestly just don’t see that. The numbers throughout the Bay Area show clearly that people want to live here and buy homes here. Prices stayed steady from the last quarter, pretty much as predicted. We’ll have a better gauge of how the year will end up after next quarter.

Solar Installation

Clients and friends have asked about putting solar panels on their homes in the past couple of months, so it seems like a good time to update you on our experience having solar panels installed. First of all, we are now in month three of the panels generating power, and I have to say I’m really happy with the results. PG&E recently raised their rates, solidifying for me the need to generate our own clean power at a constant price.

In the past two months, we have sent more electricity to the grid than we have used; that results in a credit on our bill. There is still a minimum electricity delivery charge, about $11 per month, but that sure beats the $240 per month that we were paying for electricity before.

Of course, we are still spending that money on paying for our solar system, but knowing that we are generating our own clean power and even feeding back into the grid is worth every penny.

So, how was the installation experience? Well, it had its ups and downs. Like any home addition or remodel that requires permits, it just takes longer than you think it will.

First, you need to have plans drawn up—this is done by your solar installer. Then they have to be submitted to the City for approval. When the City says it doesn’t like something on the plans, they must be redone and resubmitted for approval. You might get your plans approved on the first go-round, but that was not our experience.

Next comes getting on the schedule of your installer. They are busy, which actually is a great thing. So you wait 30 or 60 days for it all to be scheduled, and maybe rescheduled. Our date got pushed back all by the rain this winter, but I’m certainly not complaining about that.

Even before you have the panels installed, make sure that your roof is prepared. You don’t want to put a new system on a roof that has not been resurfaced in years. I would highly recommend putting the panels on right after you have had your roof redone or recaoted. Any solar installer will recommend the same thing.

Once the installers start, they can usually knock it out in a couple of days, depending on the size of the project. Our home uses a lot of electricity, so we ended up having a 7-kilowatt system installed. Generally, you want a system just large enough to generate the average amount of power you use each month. The company that you work with will take a look at your PG&E bills for the past year and tell you how large a system you will need.

Next, if there are no installation issues, you are ready for the City to come inspect the work, and PG&E also sends out its own inspector. That may take a week or two. Once PG&E gives the thumbs up, your system will be “turned on,” and you will be feeding energy into the power grid.

It’s pretty cool to watch your meter go backward from day to day. With most systems, you get this even cooler monitoring app that you can download onto your smartphone, then totally geek out (as I am doing)—watching the day-to-day or even hour-to-hour electricity production. Ours also monitors the panels for efficiency and lets us know if something is not working properly. We are connected to our installer, so they get notified if any of the panels are malfunctioning. They can contact us if they need to come out and look at anything. So far this has not happened, but it’s nice to know that if something goes wrong, a professional is on top of it.

You may hear things about PG&E complaining that with all the solar installations going in, it is going to be losing money, so it wants to start charging different rates to make up for the “short fall.” But it isn’t considering the cost savings that solar customers are providing. We produce clean energy at the local level during peak hours when the utility would have to buy it from other sources at higher rates.

The company is still the delivery source, and we all have to pay to have the power delivered. To compete with solar customers, it rolled out its “solar choice plan,” allowing you to purchase 100 percent of your energy from solar without installing the panels. But that plan is a lot more expensive. Instead of discouraging these alternatives, in my opinion, PG&E should be encouraging all its customers to install solar panels at discounted rates.

Did I mention the large tax refund we received this past year for installing solar? No matter what the current national administration does with alternative energy incentives (which have been wonderful), I believe local and state incentives will continue to encourage people to move toward solar. It’s the future, and it’s here. Embrace it and send a message that we as citizens want to continue to move toward clean energy independence.

If you are interested in adding solar and would like to get recommendations for installers and/or to ask questions about our experience, please feel free to contact me. I’m happy to share.

I’m pleased that this is an interactive column answering questions that you have and writing about topics that are of interest to readers. You can send any questions or topic requests to news@glenparkassociation.org, marc@opni.com, or The Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond St., #407, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident, is the Broker/Owner at Core Real Estate. He can be reached at marc@opni.com, or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is www.altrockrealtor.com.
**Community Calendar Summer 2017**

### Mondays
- **Decorating the Refrigerator**
  Every Week, 10:30–1:30 pm, Glen Park Library

- **Family Storytime & Playtime**
  4–5:30 pm, Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond St.

### Tuesdays
- **Poesia con Open Mic**
  First and Third Monday of the month, 7–9, Bird & Beckett

- **SFPD Community Meetings**
  Third Tuesday of the month, 7–8 pm

### Wednesdays
- **Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties**
  9–noon, behind the Center off Elk Park. St. Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Areas Program staff.

### Thursdays
- **Evénements**
  7:30–9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett

### Fridays
- **Food Pantry**
  1–2 pm, St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive

### Saturdays
- **Jazz Club**
  7:30–10, Bird & Beckett

### Sundays
- **Which Way West?**

### Community Events
- **Birdbeckett.com**

### Registration Information
- **For more information, please email staidan.org**
- **For Architects, Engineers, and Artists of the Future. Create simple machines with Legos for architects, engineers and artists of the future. Call 415-355-2858 to sign-up. Space is limited.**
- **The Christopher Park Festival will be a fun way to support the upcoming playground redesign and other Christopher Park stewardship efforts. Email FriendsOfGlenCanyonPark@gmail.com to become involved with festival planning or the Friends of Christopher Park organization.**
- **The Seducers - Classic, Outlaw & Honky Tonk Country Music**
  Second Sunday of the month, 7:30–9:30, Bird & Beckett

### Contact Information
- **To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park, or for more information about the park, inter- pretive walks and volunteer projects have ranged from William Blake to Bob Dylan, mythological and otherwise — in the past, his sub-jects have ranged from William Blake, Dylan, Shakespeare to the Shamen, the KaliBalls to the story of Laos and Muong.**
- **San Francisco Historical Commission**
  415-831-6333.
- **Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties**
  First and Third Monday of the month, 7–9, Bird & Beckett

### Library Events
- **Find a Librarian**
  4–5 pm, Glen Park Library

### Workshops
- **Library Talkers!**
  Fourth Sunday of each month, 2:30–4, Bird & Beckett

### Book Events
- **Walker Brents III**
  7 pm, Bird & Beckett

### Environmental Activities
- **Dinosaurs and the Environment**
  First Wednesday of the month, 3–4 pm, Glen Park Library

### Nature Education
- **HowellDevine -- Canyon Moonlight Series**
  7–8:30 p.m., St. Finn Barr Community Room, 547 Divisadero Street

### Social Events
- **Join us to celebrate 50 years of Chronicle Books.**
  7:30–9 pm, Bird & Beckett
  **Less Stressed in an Overwhelming World, Facilitated by Vanessa Wray, BS Public Health and Holistic Health, Resilience & Wellness Coach.**
  **Bovines, Dynamics and High-Flying Shows:**
  **The Amazing History of Glen Canyon Park 8–9 pm, 2825 Diamond St.**
  **Join the Friends of Glen Canyon Park and SFPPD gardener for a monthly volunteer work party, weeding and pruning, and occasional planting. See birdparkvolunteers@sjfg.org or call 415-831-6353. Registration required.**