



Glen Park News

Recreation Center Climbs to New Heights

After years of planning and construction, the \$14 million renovation of the Glen Canyon Recreation Center is springing to life, and already is gaining traction as a spectacular “gem in the crown” that will serve generations of park visitors.

This New Deal building, built in 1937, looks a great deal better after the makeover. In fact, giving a nod to the canyon’s history of housing the country’s first dynamite factory, Mayor Ed Lee called it, “Dynamite!”

He attended a tour of the revitalized facility on June 5, when the Recreation and Park Department swung open the doors to elected officials, community leaders, City workers and an excited group of kids who got a chance to check out the new indoor climbing wall, which can accommodate eight climbers and has three routes with different levels of difficulty. The redone rec center is expected to be open to the public in mid-July.

The project was funded by the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. It follows two other Glen Canyon Park upgrades funded by the 2008 Parks Bond: renovation of the playground and tennis courts, and trail improvements that link Glen Canyon



The new climbing wall inside the remodeled Glen Canyon Recreation Center.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Guerrero/Hoodline

with the Twin Peaks neighborhood. Altogether, the upgrades total \$22 million.

The Glen Canyon Recreation Center, which Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg said is the oldest in the system, features a colorful rock-climbing structure in the auditorium

(the only one offered at a City rec center), several multi-purpose rooms for meetings and classes, central heating, a fireplace, kitchen, grand entryway for guests, an enclosed patio that opens to the terrace above the playground, solar totems and a spectacularly revitalized gym.

Surrounded by eager children from the City’s new rock-climbing camp in Glen Canyon, who were sporting climbing gear, Ginsburg thanked those who contributed to the project by way of support or physical work and praised the park for its magnificence and endurance.

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GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday July, 19
7 p.m.

Glen Park Recreation Center

- Public Works plans for the new tree maintenance program.
- Check glenparkassociation.org for more details.

UPS Tragedy Strikes Close to Home

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



Slain UPS Driver Mike Lefiti

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GLEN PARK NEWS

The *Glen Park News* is published quarterly by the Glen Park Association. Signed articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Glen Park Association.

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❖ FROM THE EDITORS ❖

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.



Mike Lefiti

Big Mike, as he was affectingly 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



Jeff Sheehy



Rafael Mandelman

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! ❖

❖ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ❖

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.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee, I am committed to more officers in our city to keep our community safe. A 1994 ballot initiative puts the minimum number of sworn officers at 1,971, but the City hasn't met it. We are projected to reach this number later this year for the first time ever, but San Francisco has grown by more than 100,000 residents since 1994. In Ingleside Station alone, the captain said that an increase of 10 officers would help meet the needs of our neighborhoods. I'll fight to allocate more funds in the budget to be used for staffing the SFPD in order to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure.

Blended Water and Neighborhood Flooding: Together with Supervisor Norman Yee, I've been working to address a number of issues related to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. One is a proposal to add groundwater to the Hetch Hetchy water that normally comes out of our taps. A hearing at the Public Safety and

Neighborhood Services Committee on May 24 gave community members a chance to voice their concerns. To learn more about the PUC's Groundwater Supply Project, please visit sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=1136.

In my first weeks as supervisor, our neighbors on Cayuga Avenue experienced severe flooding. My colleagues and I have begun working to find permanent solutions in our community as well as citywide. Recently, the board approved funds to help homeowners impacted by the flooding, and while we're out of the rainy season, it's a good time to plan for next year.

If you ever need anything in the neighborhood, I encourage you to get in touch. Our office can be reached at 415-554-6968, or email me at jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org. I read and respond to all my email, so that's the best way to let me know your top concerns. See you in the neighborhood. ❖

Supervisor Jeff Sheehy represents District 8, which includes Glen Park, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

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 Schneider 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 at Larkin and Eddy streets caused a massive blackout in much of the city’s northern area on Friday, April 21. The fire was caused by the failure of a circuit breaker that ignited insulation.

The two-and-a-half-year construction project will take place in several phases, with work scheduled Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

“Substation M is functioning fine,



albeit its infrastructure is old,” said Menniti, about the building that dates back to Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first presidential term. “Becoming proactive will mean fewer neighborhood power outages.”

Producing or buying its power from a combination of conventional and renewable sources, PG&E distributes electricity 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 util-

ity 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.

❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

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. Summer Stride programs focus on youth, but also engage the entire family and adult patrons.

This year, the Library has a new partnership with Alamo Drafthouse Cinema—free film screenings for fami-

lies 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.

NEW GLEN PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Tuesday 10-6

Wednesday 12-8

Thursday 10-7

Friday 1-6

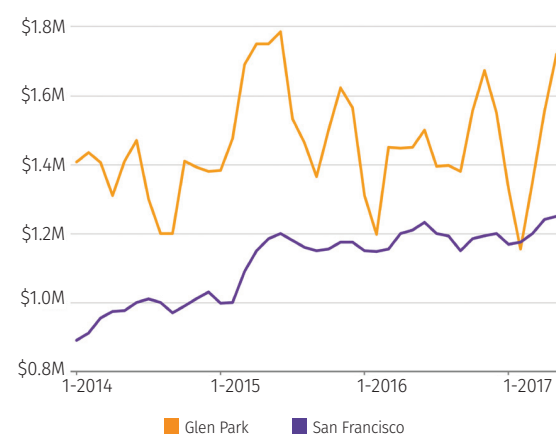
Saturday 10-6

Sunday 1-5

Bird & Beckett Books and Records
653 Chenery St San Francisco birdbeckett.com (415) 586-3733

Glen Park Real Estate Market Snapshot

Glen Park Median Sales Price Over Last Three Years



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.



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❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

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) is now working with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and the California Office of Historic Preservation to install an official plaque in the newly renovated Glen Canyon Recreation Center.

Possible Layout, Giant Powder Company, Glen Canyon

- ▶ M = Manufactory
- ▶ B = Barn/Stable
- ▶ C = Residence Cottage
- ▶ P = Pack House
- ▶ D = Drying House
- ▶ S = Chinese Shanty
- ▶ E = Elevator
- ▶ W = Water Tanks



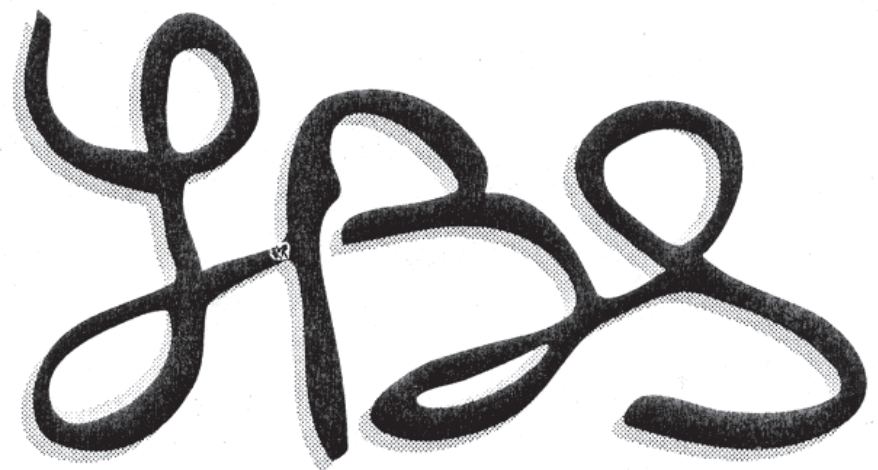
Google Earth, 2017. Image by Evelyn Rose, Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project.

This proposed layout of the Giant Powder Company complex is based on several descriptions of the site in newspapers immediately following the blast.
Graphic by Evelyn Rose, Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project.

The 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. ❖

Evelyn Rose, chair and founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project (GPNHP), is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods. 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.



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Changes Abound in Business District

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



Owner Marcello Waqued, right, and his brother Sergio, outside newly repainted Pebbles Cafe.

Photo by Gail Bensinger

berries are added to a granola breakfast bowl and smoothies.

Another house-made Brazilian treat is pao 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 restau-

rant-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.



Pono Spa owner Debra Carvalho inside her new shop.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Açaí 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.”

by
Denis
Wade

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—açaí, 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.❖

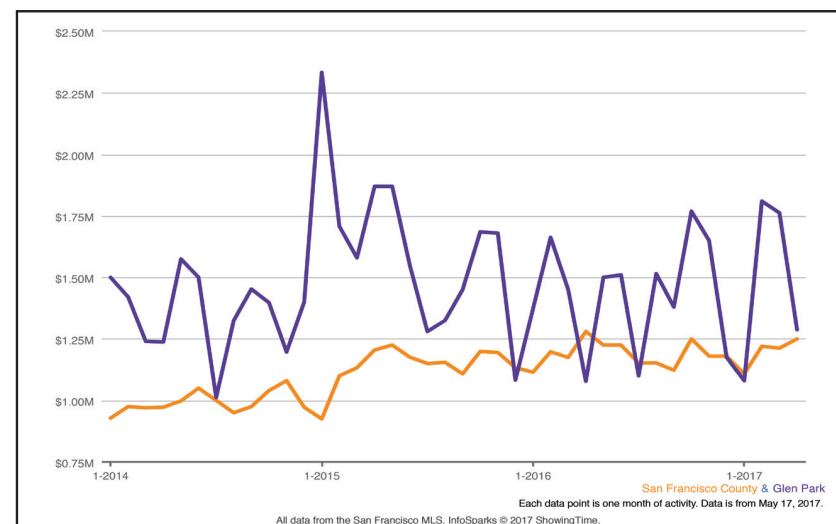


The new shelves and wider aisles at Glen Park Hardware. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

REAL ESTATE WRAP-UP

Median Sales Price - Single Family Homes

Glen Park
SF County



RECENT SALES

225 9 th Street # B – SOMA
(Represented Seller)
3900-3902 22 nd Street – Noe Valley
(Represented Seller)
4484 Calenbar Rd – Paradise, Ca.
(Represented Buyer)
55 Gates – Bernal Heights
(Represented Buyer)
156 Lombard #18 – North waterfront
(Represented Seller)
3230 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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SEPTEMBER 9TH

Glen Canyon Park



**Enjoy an evening of family entertainment
with free outdoor movie screenings and festivities.
Grab your picnic blanket, pack some snacks and
join us for a family night of fun!**

Visit cpmc2020.org for movie listings
and more information.

Attendees are encouraged to picnic in the park
and discouraged from bringing chairs.

The first 250 attendees will receive
a special goodie bag (one per family).

SutterCPMC
Join the conversation #cpmcmovie



CPMCinSF

Sutter Health
CPMC 2020



Please, no alcohol or glass containers.

✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

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!

by Kay
Hamilton
Estey

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 sun-

light 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

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Glen Park Gardener Shares Nursery Tips

Now 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 display 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.

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)

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) ❖



The succulent wall at Flora Grubb Gardens. Wikimedia Commons\ Seán A. O'Hara

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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.

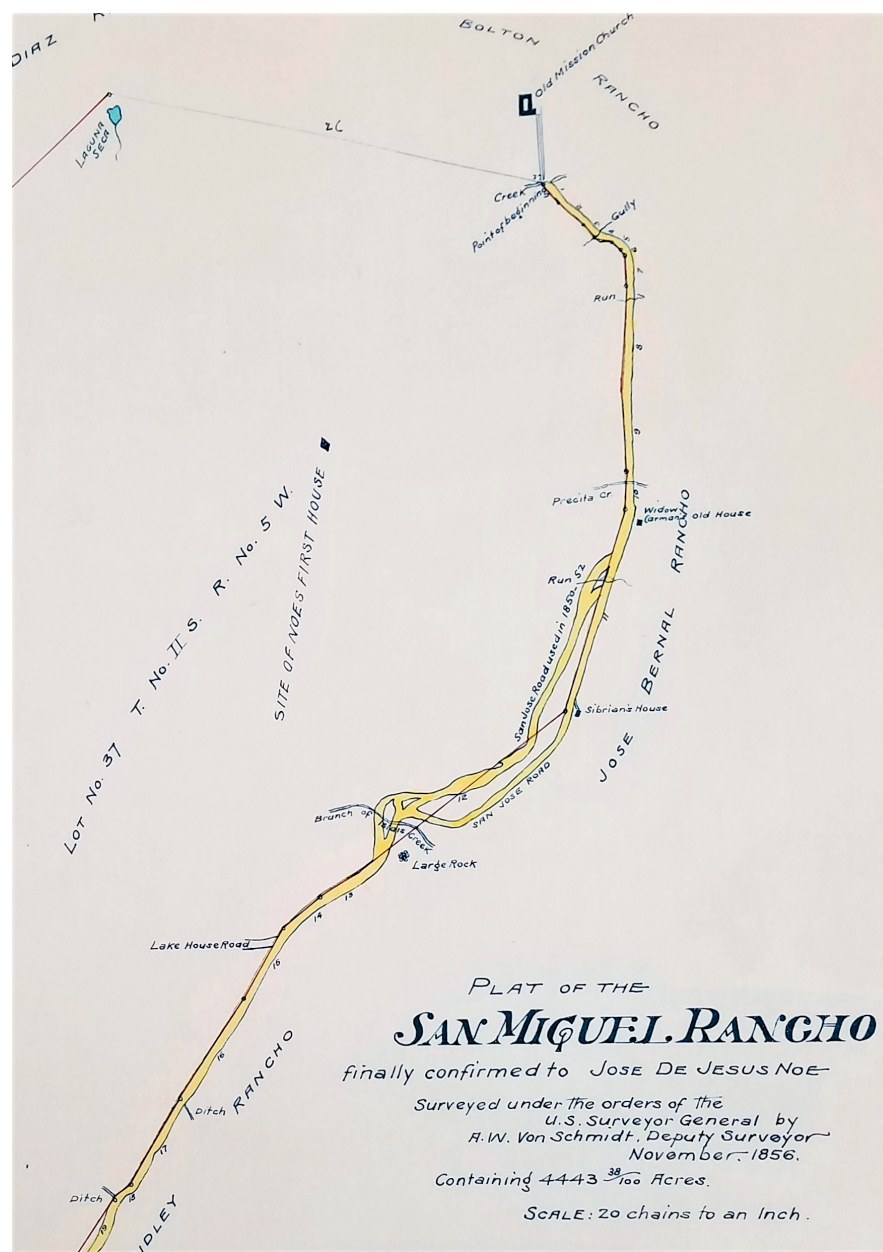
In 1776, Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza led the expedition that selected the locations for the Presidio and Mission Dolores. Afterward, they marched "... three leagues south, south-west and west, rounded the hills and came to a little arroyo [Father] Palóu had named Arroyo de San Bruno." A league equals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

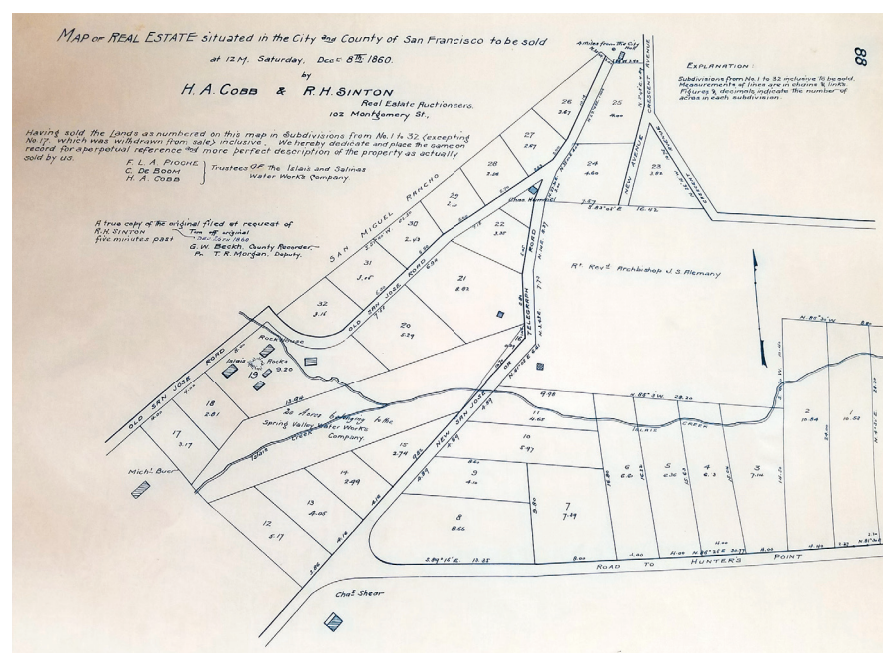
By general consensus, this is the approximate route of El Camino Real (the King's Road). Also referred to as the Mission Road or San Jose Road, it follows California State Road 82 through San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Today it is still called El Camino Real. Initially, the road was a footpath connecting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



Above Survey map is of the San Miguel Rancho owned by José de Jesús Noé, 1856, showing the Mission Road (El Camino Real) extending from Mission Dolores through the Rancho. The "tangle" is just left of center. Below is the map of land to be sold at auction by H.A. Cobb and R.H. Sinton, 1860. Note the "dog-leg" road near Islais Creek and the large rocks just to the left of center. Maps from the San Francisco Homestead Books, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



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.

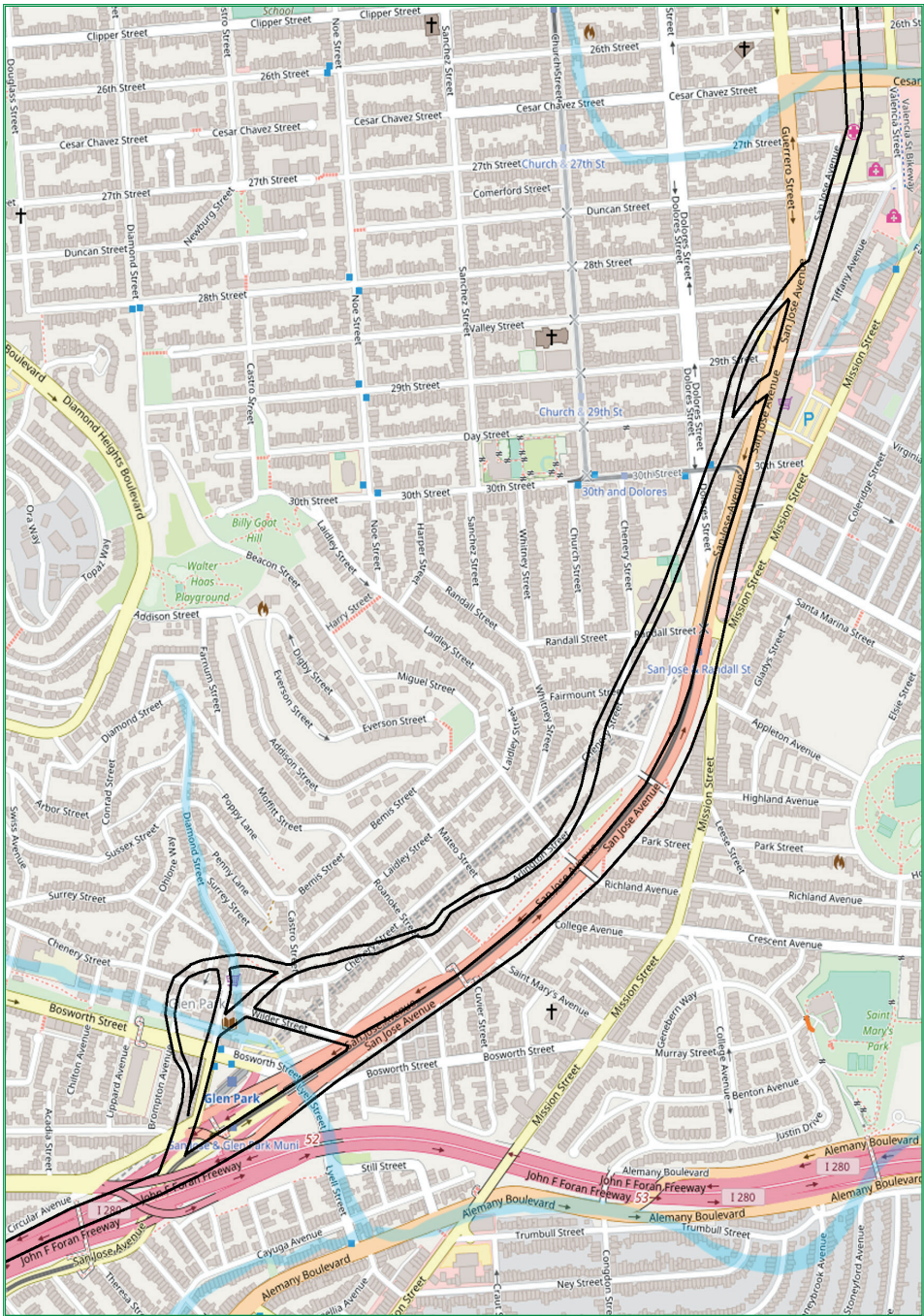
First, we superimposed the 1856 Noé survey map over a topographic map, which shows the contours of the landscape, the rolling hills and dales in our region before development. From the flatter lands south of Mission Dolores, the roads in the Noé map pass along what appear to be the contours of least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



Overlay of the 1856 Noé Survey Map (Map I, 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.

Glen Park History Revealed in Maps

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS 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 Hutchings’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 Sunnyside 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.❖



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Glen Park Station Won't Be the Same Without Tom

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.

by **Bonne Waldstein** 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



Tom Coulter in front of Glen Park Station, soon after the Giants won the World Series in 2014.

Glen Park News File Photo

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 tend-

ing 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.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Rene Lecour, right, with her daughter Catherine inside Glen Park Station

Photo by Bonne Waldstein.



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

The Death of Tom Coulter Felt at Glen Park Station

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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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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.

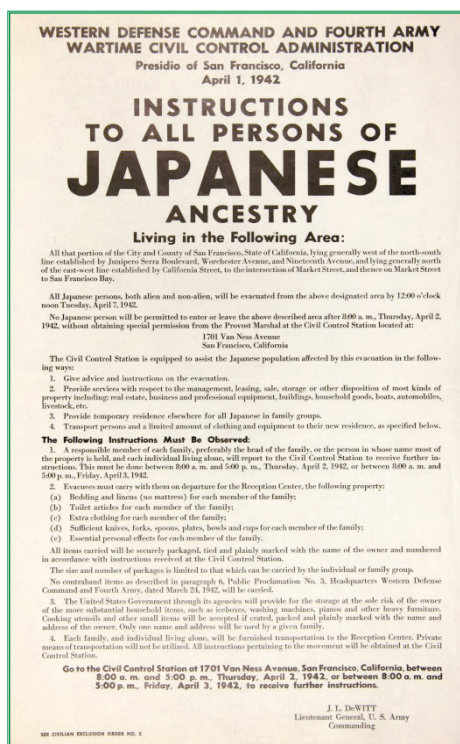
Steve Uchida’s mother, Kiyoko, was born in Alameda in 1923; she was 19 when she was sent to the camp at Heart Mountain, Wyo. Ko Takemoto, born in Santa Clara in 1934, was 8. He was sent with his family to Topaz, Utah.

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. “Embarrassment, 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



Steve Uchida volunteering in Glen Canyon Park, left, and Ko Takemoto visiting a Glen Park coffee shop, right.

Photos by Murray Schneider

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



Kei and Ko Takemoto standing in pontoon boat at Candlestick Point in 1949, four years after their release from Topaz, Utah.

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 binge 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 Dudune, 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, barnstorming 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

"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.

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.'" ♦

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."

❖ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS ❖

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 commitment and dedication of our staff and volunteers.

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.

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❖ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ❖

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-



The Redwood Sculpture on the south side of Portola Drive at Clipper Street.

Photo by Betsy Eddy

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 dhcasf@gmail.com.

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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



Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, Mayor Ed Lee and state Sen. Scott Wiener during the opening of the new Glen Canyon Recreation Center. Photo by Bonnee Waldstein

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."



The new entrance to the refurbished rec center.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Brothers John and Tim O'Sullivan, both engineers with San Francisco Public Works, know firsthand what a disaster the gym was before it was restored. They helped orchestrate the project in which all the walls had to be stripped down to the studs.

Under the floor, there was about "40 years of settlement," Tim said. "Rain had gathered underneath as it ran down the canyon from both sides and pooled there." This created hundreds of feet of dryrot, slowly eating the floor from the bottom up.

In addition, one of the rooms in the center sloped downward 7 inches, another victim of decades of rain and loose soil. It had to be leveled out and fortified. Part of the construction project included waterproofing and underpinning the building.

"It's 300 percent stronger than it was 80 years ago," Tim said, "and it'll stand another 80 years plus."

Public Works architect Paul De Freitas acknowledged the challenge of the project, considering the building's historical significance and the need to truly transform the center; he worked closely with community and City leaders.

The original design by William G. Merchant, a protégé of Bernard Maybeck, resembled a "medieval French village," De Freitas said, "with clusters of small buildings cobbled together."

In approaching the task, De Freitas said the main question was, "How do we create a welcoming presence while clearly differentiating what's old and what's new?"

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

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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 approxi-

mately 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. ❖



The refurbished basketball court inside the gym.

Photo by Bonnee Waldstein

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Dairy Queens: The Cows of Glen Canyon



The Holstein dairy cow sign that has been freshly laminated with weatherproof paint and burnished with an anti-tagging veneer. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

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, milch 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 dairy-men, 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Cows grazing in Glen Canyon in 1903.

Photo courtesy of Western Neighborhoods Project - OpenSFHistory.org/wnp14.0996

UPS Tragedy Strikes Close to Home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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,



Flowers surround a photo of Mike Lefti at the memorial at the Diamond Heights shopping center.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

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 Craggs 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 letter box.

"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. ♦



A note left by Mike Lefti's daughter at the memorial.

Photo by Marcia Schneider



Family and friends gather at the memorial.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf



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A portion of each of Marc's commissions go to fund projects for his Core Concern:
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Dairy Queens: The Cows Of Glen Canyon Yesteryear

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

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:

- findery.com/Tramps_of_SF/notes/why-the-cow-on-the-sign-at-the-entrance-to-glen-canyon
- www.trampsofsanfrancisco.com/cows-san-francisco/
- glenparkhistory.wixsite.com/glenparkhistory
- sunnysidehistory.org/2015/11/08/cows-in-sunnyside-2/

❖ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ❖

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.

Single-Family Homes					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
160 Swiss Ave.	2/10/17	27	\$1,395,000	\$1,860,000	133.33%
900 Chenery St.	2/24/17	0	\$1,760,000	\$1,760,000	100.00%
146 Hamerton Ave.	3/7/17	9	\$2,250,000	\$2,275,000	101.11%
28 Harry St.	3/15/17	12	\$995,000	\$1,350,000	135.68%
3 Mercato Ct.	3/17/17	32	\$2,199,000	\$2,175,000	98.91%
55 Laidley St.	4/4/17	29	\$995,000	\$1,200,000	120.60%
190 Stillings Ave.	4/4/17	13	\$978,000	\$1,275,000	130.37%
844 Detroit St.	4/18/17	22	\$899,000	\$1,300,000	144.61%
221 Chenery St.	4/26/17	15	\$2,595,000	\$2,620,000	100.96%
187 Brompton Ave.	5/1/17	12	\$1,795,000	\$2,253,000	125.52%
224 Miguel St.	5/8/17	12	\$995,000	\$1,410,000	141.71%
Condominiums/Multi-Unit Buildings					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
1725 Noe St. - Condominium	3/21/17	26	\$950,000	\$1,137,500	119.74%
DOM - Days on market		SP/LP - % over list price			

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 by all 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

recoated. 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 "shortfall." 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@glen-parkassociation.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 Core7 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, 10:30-11:30 am, Glen Park Library
Toddlers will explore about arts and crafts. Please dress in your oldest pre-stained clothing. Ages 18 months-4 years.

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

Poetry with Open Mic
First and Third Monday of the month, 7-9, Bird & Beckett
Poets read, followed by open mic. See Birdbeckett.com for more details.

Tuesdays

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

SFPD Community Meetings
Third Tuesday of the month, 7-8 pm location varies
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.

Wednesdays

Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties
9-noon. Meet behind the Rec Center. off Elk St.
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.

Diamond Diners Lunch and Social Hour
First Wednesday of the month, Noon-1,
St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive
LEGO Free Play
First Wednesday of the month, 2-4, Glen Park Library
Bird & Beckett Book Club
Second Wednesday of the month, 7-9, Bird & Beckett

A book is discussed each meeting. Participants choose the next month's book. See Birdbeckett.com for more details.

Fridays

Food Pantry
1-2 pm, St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.)
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, Weight Watchers and other community groups. For details, visit www.staidan.org or call 415-285-9540.

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.

Saturdays

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.

Habitat Restoration Work Parties
Third Saturday of the month, 9-11:30 am. 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.

Sundays

Which Way West?
4:30-6:30, Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.
A weekly concert 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.

The Seducers - Classic, Outlaw & Honky Tonk Country Music
Second Sunday of the month, 7:30-9:30, Bird & Beckett
Grant Levin
Second, Third, and Fourth Sunday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett

Pianist Grant Levin leads duo, trio, and quartet dates on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month, respectively. This sequence will go down in the annals of Bird & Beckett jazz history!

LEGO Free Play
Third Sunday of the month, 1-4, Glen Park Library
Walker Talks!
Fourth Sunday of each month, 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, June 21

Finding Joy & Resiliency
7 pm, Glen Park Library
Less Stressed in an Overwhelming World, Facilitated by Vanessa Wray, BS Public Health and Holistic Health, Resilience & Wellness Coach.

Friday, June 22

Planning Meeting, Christopher Park Festival
4-6 pm, Amphitheater at Christopher Park (behind Diamond Heights Shopping Center/ Ridge of Glen Canyon)

The Christopher Park Festival will be a fun way to celebrate our beautiful park and build community to support the upcoming playground redesign and other park stewardship efforts. Email friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com to become involved with festival planning or the Friends of Christopher Park organization. Children are welcome and we'll bring some light happy hour refreshments to enjoy while we plan, or if there is interest we can pitch in for pizza or portluck.

Saturday, June 24

Conozca sus derechos - Know Your Rights
2-3:30 pm, Glen Park Library
Únase a San Francisco Immigrant Legal & Education Network (SFILEN) para esta presentación sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Abierto a todas las familias que desean información básica acerca de sus derechos y lo último en cambios en la política de inmigración.

Sunday, June 25

Rabbit Hole Children's Theater
3-4 pm, Glen Park Library
Children and their families will learn how to work together as an ensemble and explore the art of improvisation. For ages 2-8 and their caregivers.

Tuesday, June 27

Author event: Gretchen Dykstra Presents "The Pinery Boys"
7-8:30 pm, Bird & Beckett
"The Pinery Boys: Songs and Songcatching in the Lumberjack Era" (University of Washington Press, 2016) is a newly annotated edition of a landmark 1926 collection of lumberjack song published by pioneering song collector Franz Rickaby, augmented by a biographical essay by his granddaughter, Gretchen Dykstra, who has edited this volume.

Wednesday, June 28

Finding Joy & Resiliency
7 pm, Glen Park Library
Less Stressed in an Overwhelming World, Facilitated by Vanessa Wray, BS in Public Health and Holistic Health, Resilience & Wellness Coach.

Thursday, June 29

Read Aloud Day with Chronicle Books
1-1:45 pm, Glen Park Library
Join us to celebrate 50 years of Chronicle Books. Enter to win a special prize pack of Chronicle books.
Eric Shifrin & the In Crowd featuring Jeff Sanford
7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett
Eric Shifrin, piano; Jeff Sanford, reeds; Paul Smith, bass ; Randy Lee Odell, drums.

Sunday, July 2

STEMpede
2-4 pm, Glen Park Library
Drop-in STEM Time

Thursday, July 6

LEGO Simple Machines
2-4 pm, Glen Park Library
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.

Ray Skjelbred & His Cubs - Hot Jazz Chicago Style in the Canyon Moonlight series
7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett
Chicago-style, 5-piece group led by Chicago native Ray Skjelbred o piano. The Cubs are on a mini-Bay Area tour they typically make each July, and thi is their only San Francisco appearance on the trip. \$20 cover charge.

Saturday, July 8

The Borders of Redevelopment: Where Diamond Heights Meets Fairmount Heights
9:30-11:30 am, meet at San Francisco Fire Department Station No. 26, 80 Digby St.
Join architectural historian Richard Brandi to explore the southern area of Diamond Heights, traversing where mid-20th century redevelopment meets, merges, and otherwise butts into the long-established neighborhoods of Glen Park and Fairmont Heights. All ages 12 years old and up are welcome. Well-behaved pets on leash also welcome. Group limited to 25 people. Reserve now by emailing GlenParkHistory@gmail.com. Moderately difficult with hills, with some stairs. Severe weather cancels. Suggested \$10 donation supports future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a tour pass.

Sunnyside History Walk: The Early Days
11 am-1 pm; walk begins and ends at the Glen Park BART station

Join Sunnyside historian Amy O'Hair on this 2-hour history walk to explore aspects of life in Sunnyside during the first decades. All ages 12 years old and up are welcome. Well-behaved pets on leash also welcome. Group limited to 15 people. Reserve now by emailing SunnysideHistory@gmail.com. Moderately difficult with a few hills and stairs. Severe weather cancels. Suggested \$10 donation supports future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a tour pass.

Sunday, July 9

STEMpede
2-3 pm, Glen Park Library
Drop-in STEM Time

Carlos Suarez – Rivermarks
2-3:30 pm, Bird & Beckett

Saturday, July 15

Stamp Making
2-3:30 pm, Glen Park Library
Make Your Own Stamp! All materials provided. Space limited. Call 415-355-2858 to register.

Tuesday, July 18

Tree Frog Treks
4-5 pm, Glen Park Library
Naturalists will introduce a variety of amphibians and reptiles from tiny Pacific Tree Frogs to 14-foot-long Burmese Pythons. For ages 5 and up. Space is limited. Call 415-355-2858 to register.

Wednesday, July 19

Glen Park Association Quarterly Meeting
7 pm, Glen Canyon Recreation Center

Thursday, July 20

HowellDevine -- Canyon Moonlight Series
7:30-10 pm, Bird & Beckett

Saturday, July 22

Magic Dan
4:30-5:30 pm, Glen Park Library
Great magic, positive messages, and a whole lot of fun. Ages 3 and up.

Sunday, July 23

STEMpede
2-3 pm, Glen Park Library
Drop-in STEM Time

Thursday, July 27

Eric Shifrin & the In Crowd featuring Jeff Sanford
7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett

Sunday, July 30

Cowbells in the Spring: History of Fairmount Heights
10 am-12:30 pm; meet at Walter Haas Playground on Addison, east of Diamond Heights Blvd.
Join Glen Park historian Evelyn Rose for this hilly 1.5-mile stroll through Fairmount Heights. Fairmount Heights predates Glen Park by nearly 35 years. Suggested \$10 donation or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a tour pass.
DIY Kids
1-2:30 pm, Glen Park Library
Craft and science projects for children. Geared for children 7-12.

Thursday, August 3

LEGO Simple Machines
3-5 pm, Glen Park Library (See July 6)
Spy Soul
7:30-10 pm, Bird & Beckett
Lee Vilensky-Carroll, Bill McBeath, Randy Odell

Sunday, August 6

DIY Kids
1-2:30 pm (See July 30)

Monday, August 7

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting
7-8:30 p.m., St. Finn Barr Community Room, 415 Edna Street

Sunday, August 13

DIY Kids
1-2:30 pm, Glen Park Library (See July 30)

Monday, August 14

Beating the Bounds: A Walk Around the Original Edges of the Sunnyside
10 am-12:30 pm; walk begins at Cup Cafe, 6 Monterey Blvd (around corner from Glen Park BART)
Join Sunnyside historian Amy O'Hair on this history walk on the many wonders and stories from the Sunnyside's 125-year history. All ages 12 years old and up are welcome. Well-behaved pets on leash also welcome. Group limited to 15 people. Reserve by emailing SunnysideHistory@gmail.com. Moderately strenuous walk, 2.5 hours, 4.5 miles, including several hills and one muddy slope.. Suggested \$10 donation, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year).

Saturday, August 19

Four Barrel Coffee
12 noon-1 pm, Glen Park Library
Four Barrel Coffee want to help you make better coffee. Call to register for event 415-355-2858. 20 participant maximum.

August 22

Girl Fry
7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett
Girl Fry is a Latin-Punk band based out of Los Angeles. Formed a few years ago by Alex Si and Jessy Spino. They recently released project titled "Arms," which is available on Bandcamp, Spotify, iTunes, and Pandora. \$10 suggested donation.

Sunday, August 27

Bovines, Dynamite, and High-Flying Shows: The Amazing History of Glen Canyon Park
9 am-noon; meet at the Glen Canyon Park Cow Sign on Elk Street at the automobile turnout, just uphill (north) from Chenery St.
Join historian Evelyn Rose on this 1.3-mile stroll through Glen Canyon. Tour limited to 20. Reserve now by emailing GlenParkHistory@gmail.com. Suggested \$10 donation supports GPNHP.
DIY Kids
1-2:30 pm, Glen Park Library (See July 30)

August 31

Eric Shifrin & the In Crowd
7:30 -9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett

Thursday, September 7

Randy Odell presents...
7:30-9:30 pm, Bird & Beckett