



# Glen Park News

## Loss and Hope for Glen Park Businesses

**A** little bit of Glen Park history died at the end of March.

Tyger's, the beloved breakfast-and-lunch spot at the corner of Chenery and Diamond streets, has closed permanently after holding on precariously during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

by  
Gail  
Bensinger

On March 31, as he finished cleaning up his restaurant for the last time, owner Young Kim was distraught as he explained that he had decided to end his run.

"It's OK," he said.

But clearly it wasn't.

Kim first went to work at Tyger's in 1988 and took over the management in 1997. For all those years, he labored in the small kitchen, preparing stacks of pancakes, BLTs and tuna melts for neighborhood regulars and casual drop-ins alike.

Pre-Covid, seven people worked there, but over the past year that number had been reduced to two—Kim and his wife, Suzie. That was exhausting for them both, he said, but they could not afford to hire anyone else.

The changing pandemic rules, including stretches of carry-out-only, limited sidewalk dining and partial inside dining, cut deeply into their revenue and made keeping the business alive unviable.

His landlady, Ana Victorson, said of the Kims, "It was their decision to leave." She said she had offered them

a new lease, which they rejected; they told her they were going to retire.

The space will be taken over by Victorson's son, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York. It will still serve breakfast and lunch, but the menu will be "more

contemporary," she added.

Kim said he planned to take some time off to decide what comes next. He finished off his final day in the neighborhood making the rounds of downtown Glen Park, thanking his fellow businesspeople for their support,

hugging them and even crying with them.

Marian Dalere, who runs the family hair salon at 660 Chenery St., said when it was time to exchange farewells, "I thanked him for his hard work and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Ohlone Way Mural Comes to Life



The new mural on Ohlone Way was painted by Josué Rojas. Here his mother helps with some of the details.

Photo courtesy of Josué Rojas

**A**mong the many charming features of Glen Park are the unpaved lanes that welcome the wanderer from the urban concrete. They're instant nature, although with reminders of civilization: backyards, fences, garages, tire tracks. Walking through, one can see

by  
Bonnee  
Waldstein

how the people living just beyond have lovingly tended (or neglected) these borderlands.

Today, people passing through Ohlone Way are offered a new delight: a huge, riotously colorful mural on the side of a house.

The artwork was commissioned by Surrey Street resident Harris Epstein. The entire length of the side of his

house runs along Ohlone Way and presented a perfect blank canvas where the mural could come alive.

A Berkeley native, Harris, his partner Abbie Coburn, and their three children, have lived in the house for seven years. They'd always nurtured the idea of a mural, and one Christmas Harris promised Coburn he was going

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

**GLEN PARK  
ASSOCIATION**  
QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday April 29, 7 p.m.  
Via Zoom

Find the Zoom link at:  
[glenparkassociation.org](http://glenparkassociation.org)

# 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.

Editor-in-Chief Rachel Gordon

Deputy Editor Gail Bensinger

Copy Editor Denis Wade

Art Director Liz Mangelsdorf

Calendar Editor Caroline Mangelsdorf

Online Editor Elizabeth Weise

Advertising Manager Nora Dowley

Distribution Manager  
Murray Schneider

## Reporters

Gail Bensinger  
Rebecca Murray-Metzger  
Murray Schneider  
Hannah Simonson  
Bonnee Waldstein  
Heather World

## Columnists

Marc Dickow  
Betsy Eddy  
Kay Hamilton Estey  
Eric Kammerud  
Rafael Mandelman  
Evelyn Rose  
Heather World  
Jamie Wong

## Photographers

Gail Bensinger  
Murray Schneider  
Denis Wade  
Bonnee Waldstein

2912 Diamond St. #407  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
news@glenparkassociation.org  
advertising@glenparkassociation.org

PLEASE SUPPORT  
OUR  
ADVERTISERS

## ❖ GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION ❖

**G**len Park Strong: It's more than just a sign in a store window. If the pandemic has taught us nothing else, it's that Glen Park is strong. Since March 2020, when an infectious and deadly pandemic upended the world, by Heather World Glen Park has buckled down and hung tight through hard times: residents are keeping the neighborhood businesses alive and reaching out to help each other with groceries and errands.

Residents are showing up in the virtual world, too. The Glen Park Association's virtual quarterly meetings are as well attended, if not better attended, than the "old-fashioned" in-person meetings BC (Before Covid). Neighbors have joined the Association in record numbers, donating time and money to help the neighborhood.

Paradoxically, the virus that keeps us apart has spawned better tools to help us work together. It is now easier than ever to volunteer on a committee that meets your interests. Whether you have a few hours, a year or a few per month, the Glen Park Association has a committee for you.

**Interested in Safety?** Commercial burglaries, BART station muggings,

a rash of shootings—the crime trends change over time in Glen Park, but crime is always a local concern. Safety committee members keep an ear to the ground, attend the Ingleside Station police captain's monthly meetings and stay in touch with liaisons from the District Attorney's office and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's office

WHETHER YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS,  
A YEAR OR A FEW PER MONTH,  
THE GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION  
HAS A COMMITTEE FOR YOU.

to keep the community informed about investigations, court cases and general safety tips.

**Interested in News?** The *Glen Park News* needs writers and editors to keep print alive.

**Interested in Neighborhood Character?** Glen Park is a transit and traffic hub with an established neighborhood plan to help guide zoning changes that can benefit the whole city without sacrificing what makes our neighborhood special. Zoning and planning committee members keep track of building notifications and legislation that affects building size and purpose.

**Interested in Transportation?** Few neighborhoods have the diverse transit offerings Glen Park does: subway, streetcar, bus, bike corrals and a freeway. Transit committee members work with BART, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Caltrans and private operators like GoBike to make sure neighbors know about potential changes, and to make sure these agencies understand the challenges and opportunities specific to our neighborhood.

**Interested in Wine and Gossip?** Okay, right now it's BYOE—Bring Your Own Everything—but picture this: a monthly meeting at a neighbor's house, the table set with wine, cheese, tea and cookies, the room filled with good cheer and the kind of gossip that policy geeks and do-gooders love. The Glen Park Association board meets monthly and works to keep neighborhood interests at the forefront of City plans, and interested neighbors at the forefront of opportunities. We want you! In all your weirdness, with all your enthusiasm. Please consider leading a committee and joining Glen Park Strong! ❖

*Heather World is vice president of the Glen Park Association. Contact her at vicepresident@glenparkassociation.org.*

## ❖ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ❖

**I**n the wake of alarming incidents of gun violence and increased property crime in District 8, I have been convening public safety town halls in neighborhoods throughout the district to provide neighbors with an opportunity to hear directly from their local police captain, the district attorney's office, and my office about strategies to make District 8 safer for everyone.

In response to recent drive by-shootings in Glen Park and Diamond Heights, we held our latest town hall on Feb. 17, in partnership with the Glen Park Association and Diamond Heights Community Association, to provide a forum to discuss those incidents and other public safety issues in the area. Thank you to outgoing Ingleside Station Captain Chris Woon and new Captain Nicole Jones for both joining our town hall, as well as Brian Bringardner from the DA's office, and especially the more than 100 neighbors who attended to make their voices heard.

**Neighborhood Housing:** I have introduced a legislative package aimed at making it harder to convert existing housing into luxury single-family "monster homes," and encouraging the construction of small multi-family buildings in residential neighborhoods.

First, I introduced an ordinance (available on the Board of Supervisors legislation web page: [sfgov.legistar.com](https://sfgov.org/legistar)) that would require a Conditional Use approval for large home expansions that do not add new housing units.

Second, I announced a package of proposed legislation to allow up to four units in residential "RH" zoning districts on corner lots and on lots within a half-mile of major train stations, including the Glen Park BART station. This zoning change is intended to allow for modest increases in the number of units allowed in residential neighborhoods over time, and would not include any changes to height, bulk or open-space requirements. The ordinance is being drafted now, and I hope to introduce it in April.

**Reopening Schools Safely:** My office has heard from many District 8 public school parents about the impacts on students and their families of a year of distance learning. I share their desires to see students safely return to in-person learning as soon as possible. I met with San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Vincent Matthews late last year to share my concerns about the lack of a clear plan for school reopening. Also, I have supported the efforts of the SFUSD parent collective Decreasing the Distance as well as City Attorney Dennis Herrera's efforts to push for a safe and equitable plan to get students back in classrooms soon.

My office remains ready and eager to partner with parents and students, teachers and community members to support efforts to get our students back into the classroom as soon as possible. ❖

*Rafael Mandelman represents District 8, which includes Glen Park, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Contact his office at [mandelman-staff@sfgov.org](mailto:mandelman-staff@sfgov.org).*



## ❖ FROM THE EDITORS ❖

In March 2020, just as the Covid-19 pandemic was emerging in San Francisco, we were readying the spring edition of the Glen Park News. As the city adjusted to what became known as the first lockdown, we made the call to post the paper online only. We decided against printing copies, both because businesses were shuttering and because we didn't want to put our home delivery volunteers at risk going door to door. At the time, we thought that publishing only a digital edition would be a one-time thing. We couldn't have predicted that the subsequent summer, fall and winter issues would also be online-only.

Now, as San Francisco is starting to reopen, we are happy to offer readers a print edition, as well as the digital version. We're distributing these papers only to neighborhood businesses in downtown Glen Park, because lots of folks still aren't fully vaccinated and the pandemic remains all too real.

But as new cases and hospitalizations have dropped considerably in recent months, and more people are getting vaccinated, we believe we are on the road to recovery.

The pandemic also sparked a discussion among our Glen Park News editors and regular reporters about the future of our paper. Given that most stories are posted on our news blog hosted on the Glen Park Association website prior to being printed, does it make sense to still have a quarterly print edition? What about publishing an annual neighborhood journal instead with more in-depth stories, and continue to run more timely stories on the blog? We'd love to hear from you, our readers. Drop us a line at [news@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:news@glenparkassociation.org).

The changes in the neighborhood due to Covid-19 are evident still—fewer buses, less foot traffic from BART patrons, hand-sanitizer stations at businesses, social-distancing markers on the

sidewalks, a segment of Chenery Street closed to through traffic, restaurants and gyms operating at modified capacity.

We are heartened to see that, with a handful of exceptions, most businesses in Glen Park managed to hang on over the past year despite exceptional challenges. But of course we are saddened to see Tyger's close. It is unclear whether the pandemic played a part in that decision; whatever the reason, the neighborhood coffee shop was a favorite gathering spot for many of us and truly was a Glen Park institution. We'll miss the friendly service and bottomless cups of coffee and glasses of iced tea.

It will be interesting to watch how Glen Park evolves in the coming months. While there has been profound grief wrought by the health crisis, there also has been an amazing spirit of neighborliness and community. We hope that remains. For now, let us embrace the promise of spring: rebirth and hope! ❖

## ❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

This season, the San Francisco Public Library has a bounty of offerings for all tastes. On April 24, just in time for National Poetry Month, take a seat in our virtual auditorium for the inaugural address of the City's new Poet Laureate.

Tongo Eisen-Martin, appointed in January by Mayor London Breed, is an educator and organizer whose work has centered on issues of mass incarceration, as well as a poet and founder of Black Freight Press. His address, presented in partnership with Friends of San Francisco Public Library, City Lights and Litquake, is titled "United and Struggle: A Collective Inaugural Address." It features poets Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Biko Eisen-Martin, Mahogany L. Browne, Jive Poetic and Joyce Lee.

April is also Financial Literacy Month. Clear your calendar and take steps toward better financial health by exploring a windfall of virtual programs focused on job and career seekers, personal finance needs and small-business resources, all aimed to help San Francisco survive, thrive and work toward economic recovery. Programs include "Investing for Beginners" and "Investing 101: How to Invest in Stocks," offered by Carly Matthews, a Certified Financial Education Instructor and a passionate finan-

cial literacy advocate; "Saving with Purpose" and "Understanding Credit," offered by Smart Money Coaching; and "Timely Tips for Successful Job Searches," offered by Tim Bombosch.

Jane Kim and Thayer Walker of San Francisco's Ink Dwell Studio present a program on their art and the natural world in time for Earth Day, on April 22. Additionally, the Library will host a series of events with the City's Department of Environment during April for Climate Action Month. On Saturday mornings, look for informative presentations by experts from SF Environment. Learn about the ways to create a healthy home, edible food recovery and the top 10 things you should know about climate change in the city.

On April 25, join the Library and many exciting performers and partners on the Library's YouTube channel and at [diasf.org](http://diasf.org) to celebrate a virtual Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros. Tune in for entertaining stories; dance along with the music. Learn about special places throughout the city that are welcoming families safely.

In May, the Library offers robust programs for adults, youth and families for an Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage celebration. Tony Robles (aka "The People's Poet"), author Kristen Giang, a Chinatown Minecraft tour, and K-pop dance class are on the schedule for youth.

Tech Week is also back, May 9–15. Look for programs on cryptocurrencies, privacy and security with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Python for Teens and more.

As the city's doors continue to open, the Library is moving steadily forward with its tiered reopening plan. While the Glen Park branch remains closed to the public, we are delighted that we can provide access to physical materials through our SFPL To Go front door and mobile pick-up service, now at 18 locations throughout the city. Glen Park patrons are encouraged to reserve and pick up materials at the two closest branches, Excelsior and Eureka Valley. Please visit [sfpl.org/sfpl-to-go](http://sfpl.org/sfpl-to-go) to learn more, or call our Tip Line, 415-557-4400, and one of our staff will be happy to walk you through the process. The Library now offers assistance and support in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Japanese and American Sign Language.

Additionally, a great tip for school-at-home parents: our Youth Center Librarians are now just an easy phone call away for reference questions and expert help! For more information, visit [sfpl.org/about-us/contact-us](http://sfpl.org/about-us/contact-us). ❖

*Jaime Wong is the public relations officer at the San Francisco Public Library. Michelle Waddy, the manager of the Glen Park branch, has been reassigned for the duration of the Covid-19 closure.*

## GPA Board of Directors and Officers for 2021

### President

Hilary Schiraldi  
[president@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:president@glenparkassociation.org)

### Vice President

Heather World  
[vicepresident@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:vicepresident@glenparkassociation.org)

### Membership Secretary

Adrienne Lacau  
[membership@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:membership@glenparkassociation.org)

### Recording Secretary

Carolyn White  
[secretary@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:secretary@glenparkassociation.org)

### Communications Secretary

Bonnee Waldstein  
[info@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:info@glenparkassociation.org)

### Treasurer

Dennis Mullen  
[treasurer@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:treasurer@glenparkassociation.org)

### Glen Park News Editor (print)

Rachel Gordon  
[news@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:news@glenparkassociation.org)

### Glen Park News Editor (online)

Elizabeth Weise (online)  
[news@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:news@glenparkassociation.org)

### Glen Park News Advertising Rep.

Nora Dowley  
[advertising@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:advertising@glenparkassociation.org)

### Webmaster

Mary Szczepanik  
[webteam@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:webteam@glenparkassociation.org)

### Health & Environment Chair

Stephany Wilkes  
[health@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:health@glenparkassociation.org)

### Neighborhood Improvement Chair

Carolyn White  
[improvement@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:improvement@glenparkassociation.org)

### Program Chair

Carolyn Deacy  
[program@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:program@glenparkassociation.org)

### Public Safety Chairs

Carolyn Deacy  
Hilary Schiraldi  
[safety@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:safety@glenparkassociation.org)

### Recreation & Parks Chair

Jessica Bogo  
[canyon@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:canyon@glenparkassociation.org)

### Transportation Chair

Scott Stawicki  
[transportation@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:transportation@glenparkassociation.org)

### Zoning and Planning Chair

Tania Treis  
[zoning@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:zoning@glenparkassociation.org)

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.

# New Ingleside Police Captain Makes History

**H**istory has been made, as the San Francisco Police Department has assigned Nicole H. Jones to be the first female captain at the Ingleside Station. Our previous captain, Chris Woon, has taken a position overseeing SFPD records and property.

Captain Jones is among six new captains at district stations. Another female captain, Rachel Moran, has been assigned to the Mission Station, also first at that post.

Jones has been with SFPD since 2007, serving as an officer at the Tenderloin and Ingleside stations, and has held positions at the Special Victims Unit, Internal Affairs, Northern Station and the chief's office. She's happy to be back at Ingleside.

In her first monthly Virtual Community Meeting on March 16, Jones focused on three topics for discussion:

**Officer conduct:** Members must abide by an extensive list of policies with the guiding principle of "Safety with respect for all."

**Commending an officer or filing a complaint:** SFPD policy is that all complaints will be investigated, regardless of the source or mode of communication, and the complainant will receive a report on the

outcome. The department reviews trends of complaints and implements training, policy or procedural changes. The most common complaint in 2020 was officers not activating their body-worn cameras, followed by illegal searches and seizures, language deficiencies, and failure to properly investigate an incident or prepare an incident report.

**Bias-free policing:** SFPD policy is to treat everyone with dignity, fairness and respect, free from bias or the perception of bias. Sworn officers and civilian members must attend training that includes such matters as racial profiling, managing implicit bias and creating an inclusive environment. Members must report any violations of bias-free policing policy that they become aware of. (For contact information, see [www.sanfranciscopolice.org/stations/ingleside-station](http://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/stations/ingleside-station).)

In the Q&A that followed this discussion, in response to a question by the *Glen Park News*, Jones noted that the rash of shooting incidents in the neighborhood during the past year is still under investigation. As of now, no gang-related connections have been made.

Other questions raised covered a smorgasbord of activities across Ingleside Station's territory such as stunt driving, parked RV campers, motorcyclists on park trails, and daredevil skateboarders. ♦



Ingleside police Captain Nicole H. Jones.

Photo Courtesy SFPD

## Estate planning for happy, proactive people!

We do free workshops! Find our schedule of free workshops on Facebook or Eventbrite - search for De Fonte Law PC.

Come and learn with us!

Estate Planning Fundamentals for Parents Virtual Workshops

March 16th 9AM  
March 17th 6:30 PM  
April 13th 9AM  
April 21st 6:30 PM

May 11th 9AM  
May 19th 6:30 PM  
June 15th 9AM  
June 16th 6:30 PM

Reach us at  
[info@defontelaw.com](mailto:info@defontelaw.com) and  
[www.defontelaw.com](http://www.defontelaw.com)



**De Fonte Law PC**  
ESTATE PLANNING WITH HEART

De Fonte Law PC serves all types of families, green card holders, families created with assisted reproductive technologies and families experiencing a separation. We believe that love is love, families belong together, women's rights are human rights and Black lives matter.





# Glen Park Festival Announces Grants

The last Sunday in April would have marked the 22nd annual Glen Park Festival. But, as it probably goes without saying, this yearly event had to be deferred for the second time in a row due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we must wait for another season to be together again to celebrate our neighborhood, the Glen Park Festival's neighborhood grant program lives on, thanks to generous support from Genentech.

The grant program, usually funded from festival proceeds, benefits schools and children's programs in and near the Glen Park community. Grantees must be either a nonprofit or public school educational institution; located in or serving children from ZIP Codes associated with the Glen Park neighborhood; serve some children from low-income families (as evidenced by children receiving free/reduced lunches, scholarships, etc.); and be for discrete projects, programs or capital outlays.

Typically, grantees are given preference if they participate in the current year's Festival, either by hosting a vendor booth, donating to the raffle or sending representatives to be on the committee or volunteer on the day of the event.

This year, all grantees from prior festivals were contacted and invited to submit an application. Six grantees applied, and all six received awards, totaling \$5,500. While this is far below the Festival's usual grants total, the Festival committee remains pleased to be able to support the Glen Park Community in some way at this time.

## The 2021 recipients include:

- The James Lick Middle School PTSA will repair and purchase musical instruments for its school band program, in which students from all three grades (6th, 7th and 8th) participate, and use a portion of the funds to facilitate distance learning for the band students.

- Centro Las Olas will purchase additional art supplies for the children attending the school, in line with their mission to encourage and foster a strong foundational base of experience, play and engagement so that children can develop strong academic skills as they grow and develop.


- The Commodore Sloat Parents Club Organization will dedicate the funds to ensure students have the tools they need to achieve their best results in a distance-learning environment, by providing essential learning materials and technology subscriptions.

- Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School will increase the libraries in both classrooms to include more diverse books—not just books with issues of diversity as their central themes, but also more general picture books that feature diverse main characters.

- Synergy School will expand its small collection of early readers, such as the "I Can Read" series, for parents to borrow from the school library.

- West Portal Elementary School's Parents Club plans to purchase diverse books for the library, additional instruments and watercolor paints for music and arts programs, and a subscription for a software program that teachers will use to enhance instruction.

The Glen Park Festival all-volunteer committee is pleased to be able to support the community in this way. ♦



**Bird & Beckett**  
BOOKS AND RECORDS  
653 Chenery St.  
San Francisco  
birdbeckett.com

## MARC DICKOW

Broker, Realtor, Partner



2020 President of San Francisco Association of REALTORS®

**CORE7**  
REAL ESTATE

P 415-722-4018 BRE #01870650

E marc@opni.com W altrockrealtor.com

As a Glen Park resident, I really do know how best to market your property. I can help you from preparing your home to put on the market through the close of escrow and everything in between.  
Check out my real estate column in this newspaper!

— MARC DICKOW —

## "Marc did a phenomenal job selling our home!"

"Marc and his team did everything to ensure we received top dollar for our home and that it was as painless as possible. He was patient and thorough in all the details. His team responded at all hours of the day and no question was too small or silly. He is incredibly professional, responsive, caring, and it's clear he loves what he does. Thank you Marc, we truly felt supported throughout this whole process." —J.C., Seller

## "Marc is extremely professional..."

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



A portion of each of Marc's commissions go to fund projects for his Core Concern:  
**LOCAL SCHOOL MUSIC AND ART PROGRAMS**

## ❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

**D**uring the Pleistocene Epoch some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, the greater San Francisco Bay Area was a wild and woolly landscape inhabited by Columbian mammoths, mastodons, giant bison and sabre-tooth tigers.

**Evelyn Rose** Evidence of such megafauna has been found during excavations for several city projects, including in the 1990s during construction of a building in the San Francisco Financial District and in 2012 for the new Transbay Terminal. These discoveries helped add additional insight to what the Bay Area once was, now referred to by scientists as the California Serengeti.

This is also the period when humans first reached North America. When sea levels were an estimated 300 feet lower, a land bridge between Russia and Alaska, over what is now the Bering Strait, enabled the migration of humans into and throughout North America and to the far reaches of South America.

In San Francisco, physical evidence of our region's first people has been periodically uncovered. For example, in 1969 during construction of the BART Civic Center station at Fulton and Market streets, a female pelvis and two femurs—carbon-dated to about 5,000 years ago—were recovered from 75 feet below the surface. At that time, it was the oldest evidence of human habitation in the Bay Area. Anthropologists from San Francisco State College (now University) surmised the young woman had died accidentally in what was then a brackish marsh.

One of the earliest reports of the discovery of Native American artifacts in the city appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1875. During construction of a silk factory in Visitacion Valley, workers were reported to have excavated several shell mounds. Also known as shell middens, these human-made mounds are found across the globe and are indicative of the presence of permanent villages. At least half of a midden's composition includes mollusk shells discarded after eating the meat. Other components can include soil, ash, charcoal and rocks used for heating foods.

Evidence of human habitation recovered from the middens include the bones of mammals (including bears, mountain lions, deer, elk, wolves, domesticated canines, large rodents and ocean mammals), wild fowl and fish.



A Bay Area Native American, possibly Ohlone, as depicted by Russian explorer and artist Louis Choris, circa 1816. Courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California

Over thousands of years and accompanied by soil accumulation, these mounds rose tens of feet above what was formerly flat ground. They supported activities of daily living, served as locations for ceremonial activities, and were the site of communal fireplaces, homes and workshops.

They also served as burial grounds and can be associated with a variety of artifacts. Such was the case in Visitacion Valley, where it was reported that “twenty feet below the surface of the earth ... a large quantity of Indian implements, such as bones of deer, shaped like awls for perforating skins, fur blanket pins, arrow-heads [sic], stone-sinkers for fishing nets, and pipes of fine workmanship” were recovered.

In 1908, anthropologist N. C. Nelson of the Department of Anthropology, University of California at Berkeley, from work financially supported by Phoebe A. Hearst, published a report in *American Archaeology and Ethnology* entitled “Shellmounds of the San Francisco Bay Region.” Nelson, using language that perpetuated the white hubris that was common among academic anthropologists of the era, noted

his research had been “finished none too soon, because the obliterating agencies of nature have been strongly reinforced in the last four or five decades by the hands of modern man, and the ultimate destruction of every suggestion of former savage life seems not far off.” He also observed that “the earth mounds [shell middens] are nearly all located by the entering streams, close to the upper reaches of the tide-waters ... and close to the open bay.”

Stating that his list was likely not exhaustive, Nelson identified 425 shell mounds throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and speculated why no shell mound had been left in its “most pristine” condition. For instance, most sites had become “suitable for habitation by the modern invaders.” Moreover, that the composition of the accumulated refuse “yielded splendid crops of potatoes and other vegetables ... [served as] ballast for roads and sidewalks, as garden fertilizer, and even as chicken feed.” He added, “It is said that the mound material, mixed with rock salt, produces tennis courts that for combined firmness and elasticity

are unexcelled,” not to mention that “artifacts from these obliterated deposits have as a rule been scattered ... among individual curio seekers.”

Of the 425 shell mounds Nelson identified, only eight are located within the City and County of San Francisco: two near Lands End, one near Candlestick Point, two at Hunters Point and three along the border of the Islais Creek wetlands that once flowed east into San Francisco Bay from near today's U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280 interchange. Nearly 20 years earlier, in 1858, the Map of the San Bruno Turnpike Road also identified three shell mounds. One would have been on the Bernal Heights side of the U.S. 101 and Interstate 280 interchange near Alemany Boulevard, and two near Cesar Chavez Street at U.S. 101.

Some experts believe California was home to one of the world's most diverse indigenous populations, and certainly the densest population of Native Americans on the continent. Estimates of about 300,000 people living throughout the state at the time of European contact are likely low. Unlike the first Americans living in the Plains states, who were known for their seasonal migration between geographic regions, California's rugged terrain had kept its native people largely isolated from the rest of North America. The people of California bore little physical resemblance to Native Americans east of the Sierra Nevada, nor does there appear any connection of language and culture with those of the Plains and elsewhere.

Six geographical culture areas have been identified in the state: the Colorado River, including the Yuma and Mohave peoples; Southern Area, including the Chumash, Serrano and Gabrielino peoples; Great Basin, including the Paiute, Washo and Mono peoples; the Northwest Area, including the Yurok, Shasta and Hupa peoples; and the Northeast Area, including the Modoc and Achumawi peoples.

The Greater San Francisco Bay Area (including the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys) is known as the Central Cultural Area and includes the Miwok, Patwin, Pomo, Maidu and Ohlone peoples—the latter also referred to by the Spanish as the Costanoan.

In the early 20th century, Alfred Kroeber of the University of California at Berkeley, the first to receive a doctorate in anthropology in the United States, called these geographically

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



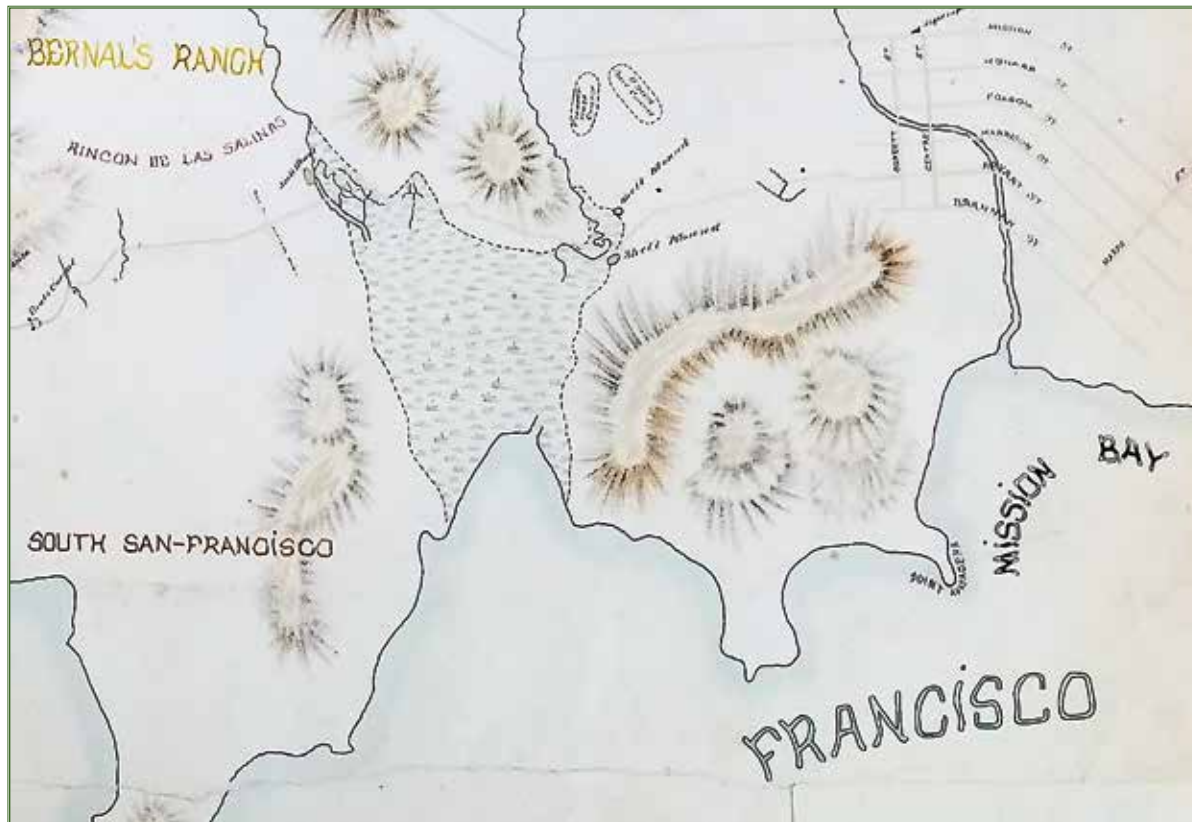
## ❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

isolated groups “tribelets.” Today’s descendants of the First Californians consider this term disparaging, its meaning implying that “tribelets” were something less than other Native American tribes. Because California’s tortuous terrain had contributed to the development of nearly 135 distinct dialects among California groups, the terms “linguistic group” or “tribe” are preferred.

With an estimated 10,000 individuals pre-contact, the Ohlone inhabited the area from Santa Cruz to the Golden Gate Strait. In San Francisco, until the arrival of the Spanish and with 200 to 300 residents, the Yelamu of the Ohlone were the only group living north of San Bruno Mountain.

Other names have also been used to describe the Ohlone. The Muwekma Ohlone refers to a broader group of Ohlone descendants whose ancestors were documented in the archives of several Bay Area Spanish missions. The Ramaytush Ohlone, first described in the 1970s, represents the Ohlone of both San Francisco and San Mateo counties. Though the latter name has been adopted by local Ohlone, it covers several linguistic groups and is not



A portion of the survey map of the proposed San Bruno Turnpike, published in July, 1858, shows the sites of three shellmounds in the Islais Creek Wetlands. Image courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library

necessarily specific to San Francisco’s Pre-Contact Yelamu. In fact, today’s representatives of the Ramaytush have said: “The original people of what is now San Francisco County we refer to today as the Yelamu. The Yelamu were an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone.”

While all three terms refer to the pre-Contact Ohlone population in San Francisco, historically speaking the Yelamu would be the most specific

reference to our first San Franciscans—including those who likely followed Islais Creek into Glen Canyon for hunting and gathering, a livelihood that would remain unchanged for several millennia. The Yelamu may have resided in temporary camps in San Francisco’s interior, trekking through the hills and along the banks of creeks, forging their own trails or following animal traces and ruts. Perhaps Glen Canyon was a favored destination for hunting game, foraging for grasses, seeds and berries, and collecting Franciscan chert for weapons and tools.

The discovery of San Francisco Bay by Gaspar de Portola in 1769 triggered a rapid and calamitous cultural transformation for the Ohlone and Native Californian population at large. European diseases for which Native Americans had no immunity decimated the population. The severity of treatment of local Native Americans varied among missions, but all were successful in destroying First Californian cultural practices and traditions. Tragically, little is known of Ohlone culture or language today.

Archeological research has never been performed in the district of Glen Park, but there

is some interesting anecdotal evidence. One local resident who grew up in a home that was later demolished for the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington Streets recalls digging up mollusk shells in her backyard as a child. Her home lot would have been adjacent to Islais Creek before it was rerouted underground, and the shells might have indicated the site of a temporary camp.

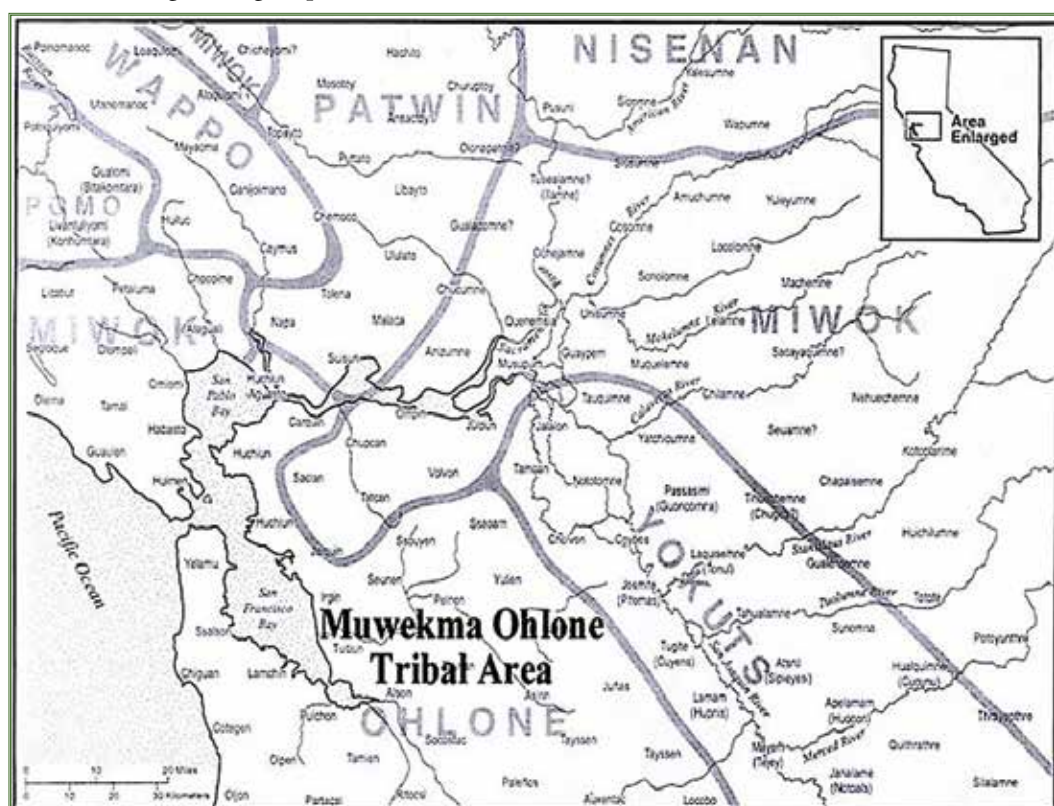
In another instance, a volunteer working to help maintain native vegetation in Glen Canyon said he had found an obsidian blade under several inches of earth and delivered it to the Randall Museum (obsidian quarried in the Napa area was a frequent trade item in the Bay Area and beyond). Confirmation from the archivist at Randall

Museum is still pending.

Further, some modern streets that follow the gentlest slopes of our topography may be artifacts of trails traversed by the Ohlone over thousands of years. This may be true for Gum Tree Girls Trail (formerly known as Alms Road) in Glen Canyon, and Chenery and Diamond Streets along the route of the original El Camino Real (see *Glen Park News*, Summer 2017).

The heritage of the Yelamu Ohlone in San Francisco and the Glen Park district can never be displaced or forgotten. As you shop along Chenery Street, or hike the Glen Park Greenway adjacent to Bosworth Street or the Gum Tree Girls Trail in Glen Canyon, try to imagine what life may have been like for the Ohlone thousands of years ago before European contact changed their way of life forever. ❖

*Evelyn Rose, Director and Founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods. To learn more about our local histories, visit [GlenParkHistory.org](http://GlenParkHistory.org). The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project is offering intermittent virtual programs during the ongoing health crisis. Join the mailing list: [GlenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GlenParkHistory@gmail.com). The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project is fiscally sponsored by Independent Arts & Media, a California nonprofit corporation.*



This map shows the large number of Native American linguistic groups that existed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area prior to European contact. Image courtesy of Muwekma.org



# New Mural Depicts Glen Park History

An outline of Glen Park history is taking shape on the north wall of Pebbles cafe on Kern Street at Diamond Street this spring, as artist Amos Goldbaum paints one of his signature line murals there.

by Heather World

Originally slated for a T-shirt that Goldbaum intended to sell at the 2020 Glen Park Festival, the image is based on an historic photo of the Glen Park Recreation Center he found on Open SFHistory, an online photo archive.

"I was drawn to that photo, the details of the old houses, the cool angle," said Goldbaum, who has painted two murals in Noe Valley, one in Bernal Heights, and a few others scattered across the city. He also paints interior murals, and his T-shirts and sweatshirts are popular with residents and tourists alike.

The project had long been the dream of San Francisco native Amanda

Martin, who floated the idea at the Glen Park Festival in 2017 and was encouraged by the support she found. The pandemic, which cancelled the Glen Park Festival and most of normal life in 2020, slowed her a bit.

"My friends always laugh, 'You're still trying to do that?!', but I kind of never gave up on it," she said. She scouted for a location and was thrilled when the Hayes family, which owns the Pebbles building, agreed to provide the wall canvas.

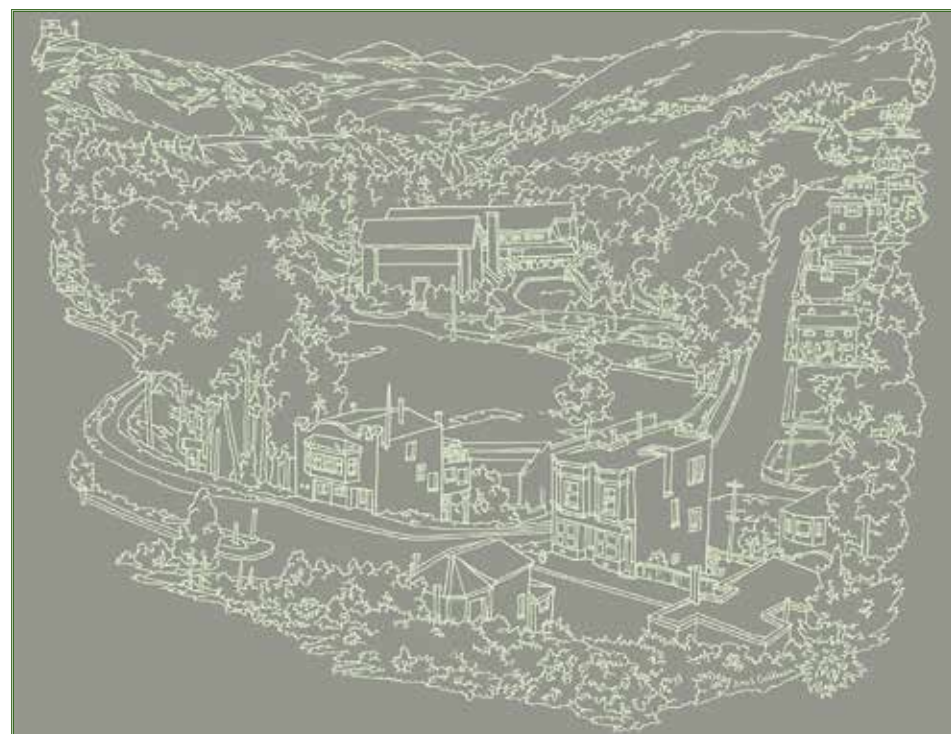
To raise the estimated \$7,500 needed for materials and Goldbaum's

time, Martin seeded an Indiegogo fund-raiser with \$3,000 in January. By March, 79 people had pitched in to meet the goal. Martin was thrilled.

"I didn't want it just to be a few people," said Martin, who grew up in Noe Valley. "I wanted there to be a lot of people so there is a lot of public support."

Mindful that people were donat-

"I WAS DRAWN TO THE PHOTO, THE DETAILS OF THE OLD HOUSES, THE COOL ANGLE."



The mural of Glen Park that Amos Goldbaum will paint on the side of Pebbles cafe on Kern Street at Diamond Street.

ing, Goldbaum kept his price low, in essence contributing to the cost of the mural himself. "I thought it was really exciting to do a mural in Glen Park," he said. "I didn't want to turn it down."

Goldbaum expects to begin paint-

ing by early May, after painters have prepped the exterior wall. He estimates the work will take about a week. He'll bring a ladder and a drop cloth to the site, then draw the first outline in chalk before putting brush to building. ♦

**ACHIEVING  
IMPROVED  
MOVEMENT  
TOGETHER**

**LIVING  
HEALTHY  
PHYSICAL  
THERAPY**

Serving the Glen Park community and surrounding areas for 2 years as an essential service.

Open for One on One Appointments with Dr Kylie Rowe PT

**NOW IN ITS OWN GLEN PARK LOCATION**

**AT 667 CHENERY ST**

**415 906 2055**

[www.drkylieroewept.com](http://www.drkylieroewept.com)

als

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL (K-8)**  
where community matters

IMAGE: SONPHOTO.COM

offering traditional faith-based education while incorporating cutting edge technology

925 CHENERY STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131  
[www.stjohnseagles.com](http://www.stjohnseagles.com) 415.584.8383



## ❖ NEWS FROM GLEN PARK SCHOOL ❖

**G**reetings from Glen Park Elementary School! We're heading into the final months of a unique and challenging school year.

The biggest issue on the minds of many members of our community is school reopening. The question of when and how to reopen schools amid the Covid-19 pandemic is complex and brings up strong emotions on all sides of the issue.

Faculty, staff and families are hustling to prepare for students to return to campus for in-person learning. Students in kindergarten, first and second grades whose families have elected to return in-person were to start on Monday, April 12; they were to be followed a week later by third, fourth, and fifth graders.

All of the returning students in the General Education and Bilingual programs will attend on a hybrid schedule, with two days on campus and three days in distance learning each week. Students in each class have been divided into two cohorts, one of which will meet in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, while the other meets Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday is left open to allow classrooms to be thoroughly cleaned between the two-day sessions. The in-person school day will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Students whose families elected not to return to in-person learning will continue with distance learning five days per week.

Distance learning will look similar to what we've seen so far this year. Students spend two hours each day with their teachers via Zoom. The big difference will be in scheduling, as Zoom school will take place around the in-person school day. Teachers will also continue to create assignments for students to complete on their own time to flesh out the rest of the day.

Special Day Class students returning to campus will attend five days per week from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Once classes begin again, anyone entering the campus will be subject to a health screening each day. Everyone on campus will be required to wear a mask at all times, except when eating. In the event anyone on campus begins to show Covid-19 symptoms during the day, spaces have been set up to quarantine the affected people and any close contacts.

In preparation for the return, a team of volunteers led by parents Katie

Ripley and Tacha Santana helped complete the final preparations during the week of April 5. Volunteers helped give classrooms a final cleaning, organized supplies and equipment, and finished setting up break spaces for adults on campus.

In the midst of all this preparation, we held our annual Spring Auction, our biggest Parent Teacher Organization fund-raiser each year. For the second year in a row, the auction was an online affair. We had music and dancing led by Roryography, breakout rooms for people to catch up with each other, a Fund-A-Need supporting programs to address concerns around recovering from a year in distance learning, a silent auction with items and activities donated by members of the school community, and the live auction. The evening was a success, raising more than \$55,000!

Looking ahead to next year, enrollment season is still in full swing. Families have received placement letters from the San Francisco Unified School District and are investigating their new schools. With restrictions still in place preventing on-campus tours, the PTO is organizing virtual tours and information sessions for incoming students. Visit our website at [glenparkschool.org](http://glenparkschool.org) to learn more or to check out our video tour.

We'll "see" you there!❖

*Eric Kammerud is the communications co-chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to [glenparkschool.org](http://glenparkschool.org). Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/glenparkschool](https://facebook.com/glenparkschool).*

# Cheese Boutique



Fresh Sandwiches  
Imported Cheeses  
Homemade Hummus,  
Baba Ganoush, Tabouli

660 Chenery Street  
415-333-3390

# Born and Raised Glen Park Native, Neighbor, and Real Estate Resource

Having grown up on Chenery Street, I know how just special this neighborhood and community is. My wife and I attended Glenridge Nursery School and are now raising our two young children here.

One of my recent contributions to our community was working with Evelyn Rose and my Parlor at the Native Sons of the Golden West to raise 100% of the funds needed to purchase and install the plaque dedicated to the historic dynamite factory in Glen Park. Other local memberships include The Glen Park Neighborhood Association, SPUR, The Small Properties Owners Institute, The Residential Builders Association, and The Olympic Club.

As a real estate agent at Compass, my business specializes in buying and selling a mix of residential, commercial, multifamily and new construction properties. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any needs, questions, or just want to chat regarding real estate.

## Client Testimonial

"Kevin was our agent for our rental property that we purchased in San Francisco. We interviewed 4 agents and we quickly realized that Kevin had much more knowledge of the SF market compared to the others. This is the 7th real estate transaction that my husband and I have done and Kevin is by far the best agent we have encountered. He was professional, patient, courteous, and extremely knowledgeable. He was extremely organized and ensured that we found a place within 90 days of working with him in order to avoid paying massive fees through our 1031 Exchange."

—Glen Park Neighbor, Vidya B.



**Kevin McCollom**  
415.710.8713  
[kevin.mccollom@compass.com](mailto:kevin.mccollom@compass.com)  
[KevinSF.com](http://KevinSF.com)  
DRE 01947291



# COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235v. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



# Loss and Hope for Glen Park Businesses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for feeding the neighborhood.”

“It’s so sad,” said Tony, who goes by one name and runs Critter Fritters pet shop at 670 Chenery.

“Tyger’s has been a staple in my diet since I came to Glen Park in 1999,” said Eric Whittington, proprietor of Bird & Beckett Books and Records, 653 Chenery. He added that he was partial to Kim’s patty melt and tamales and eggs.

“We need that kind of restaurant here,” said Richard Tarlov, owner, with his wife, Janet, of Canyon Market at Diamond and Wilder streets, the neighborhood’s largest private employer.

As San Francisco scrambles to contain the coronavirus and get everyone vaccinated, Glen Park merchants hope the end is in sight, even if the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel still appears to be a good distance off.

Business is “slowly coming back,” Tarlov noted. While shoppers practice social distancing along its narrow aisles, buying staples and treats, the market’s volume has been down, Tarlov said. “The missing link is transit: BART and the transit buses,” he explained. There’s no carry-out coffee business in the mornings, no outside tables for eating lunch or snacks, and no post-work streams of subway and bus riders to come in on their way home to pick up makings for dinner.

“The biggest impact is on prepared food, especially the salad bar,” Tarlov added. Instead of filling disposable containers with bespoke salads, shoppers now choose among pre-packaged foods or buy produce and meat to cook themselves. He said he hasn’t had to lay off employees, but there has been some natural attrition as workers left and weren’t replaced.

Manhal Jweinat has back-to-back jobs these days: In the mornings, he is the cook-waiter-cleaning staff-food buyer at Higher Grounds at 691 Chenery, which he has been running since 1982. When the coffeehouse-cum-creperie closes for the day, he crosses the intersection to his Italian restaurant, Manzoni, at 2788 Diamond. There, he shares the dinner-only workload with chef Raul Aguirre. The rest of the staff had to be let go early in the lockdown—even his sister.

His days start at 4:30 a.m. with early-morning trips to the produce mart. He finishes at 8:30 p.m. “I have no time to have a life. I just work now,” he said.

Jweinat’s nephew used to help out



Tyger's Young Kim during happy times in 2018.

Photos by Gail Bensinger

at the coffee house but landed a tech job at Tesla. Things are busy enough now—65-70 percent back on Saturday and Sunday, 45 percent back on weekdays—that Manhal is considering hiring someone else, especially on weekends. As a concession to his schedule, he has been closing Higher Grounds on Mondays.

Following the lockdown rules, he initially only offered carry-out. When allowed, he put a few tables out on the sidewalk. Now, as the city is reopening, he has resumed socially distanced indoor dining.

In March someone broke into Manzoni through one of the two front doors and stole three computers and some wine—the good stuff, he said.

As for the shut-down Le P’tit Laurent, the restaurant diagonally across the Diamond-Chenery intersection from Tyger’s, Jweinat plans to keep it closed until the economy fully recovers. When that day comes, will it still be a French restaurant? “Hopefully,” he answered.

Running Pebbles, the Brazilian-American eatery at 2852 Diamond, always has been a family affair, but now it’s a household one, too, said Marcello Waqued. He runs the café with his father, Claudio, mother, Heloisa, and brother, Sergio.

When the pandemic hit, the business was on the verge of an expansion and remodel, and a revised menu. Just before the first lockdown, they experienced “the best month we ever had. Everything was going right, then Covid hit,” Marcello said. Instead of growing the business, the family regrouped and moved in together, so that everyone

could share the work and the care of Marcello’s two kids, aged 8 and 3. His in-laws, both retired, help out, too.

“I love my family to death, but all I want is to get back to normal,” Marcello said.

A lot of their business has moved online, for pickup or delivery, he noted. Especially popular are the acai bowls and Brazilian savory treats. The hungry people of the neighborhood, many of them now working from home, have been their biggest boosters: “People are trying new stuff to support us, and people are telling each other to support us.”

Rick Malouf, who operates Cheese Boutique, r e p o r t e d :

“Overall, we’re OK.” He runs the cheese, deli and sandwich shop at 660 Chenery with his wife, Nada, plus a weekend assist from their college-student son, Michael. They’ve shortened their hours—they are closed Sundays and Mondays, and end their days at 4 p.m. But many people are working from home and want a mid-

day break, so they have been selling 40 to 50 sandwiches a day, along with cheeses, homemade Middle Eastern specialties and regular deli fare.

Carla Ramirez, the cheerful counterperson at Bello coffee house on Diamond Street near Bosworth Street, said the latest loosening of pandemic rules has helped business there, with volume running about 40 percent of pre-Covid times—a big improvement over the second lockdown. “We’re doing pretty well,” she said.

Bello was closed for the first month of the original lockdown, then reopened for carry-out for three to four hours daily. Customers asked them to stay open longer, and in late April 2021 they were hoping to resume inside seating.

Teanna Randrup, known as Tea, is the store manager of Perch, the gift store at 654 Chenery. She reports that “little by little, people are coming in.” Online sales “haven’t been spectacular,” but, of late, things “seem more positive than in previous months.”

That’s the good news. The bad news is that in March someone shot at one of the display windows causing big cracks, repaired by duct tape until the glass can be replaced. Randrup speculated that the shooter expected the window to collapse in small bits in order to gain access. A police report was filed.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Manhal Jweinat in front of his restaurant, Manzoni.



# E-Scooter Craze Slow to Roll in Glen Park

In January of this year a clever reporter, Jason Feifer of Entrepreneur.com, wondered what people in 1921 were forecasting for the year 2021. His research led him to this prediction, among many others:

by Bonnee Waldstein  
*"With the electrical improvements to come, there will be a change in our transportation system. There will be more electric automobiles and electric bicycles and tricycles will be developed. Because of their simplicity and low price they will be available to almost everyone. Our cellars will be the place to keep them."*

Here we are a hundred years later, and e-scooters are dotting the Glen Park landscape.

There was a messy rollout—and roll-back—in 2018, as detailed in the fall 2019 issue of the *Glen Park News*. Right now, scooter companies Scoot and Spin seem to have a foothold in Glen Park. Jump is another operator in the city. Lime suspended operations in California when Covid-19 hit.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency declared that "shared mobility operators" are essential services during the pandemic. After an initial drop-off in usage, ridership increased as people tend to avoid public transit and ride-hailing services. Spin has put sanitizing procedures in place for safe operation.

Getting scooters onto the streets of San Francisco has been a convoluted process permeated by lots of bureaucracy, logistical snags and profitability shortfalls. Moreover, it's not clear whether Glen Park has fully jumped onto the scooter bandwagon.

On casual strolls around our partially hilly neighborhood, not many people

can be spotted scooting around. Yet in downtown Glen Park, scooters can be seen parked—neatly!—outside Higher Grounds, fitGLENfit gym, Café Bello and Park Salon. Monitoring those spots for a week or so showed that, of nine scooters, only four remained, all outside the gym.

E-scooters in Glen Park and surrounding neighborhoods have received some positive feedback. With the near-collapse of public transit during the pandemic, scooters are an option for essential trips to the market or drugstore.

The Glen Park BART station has an extensive bank of bike lockers, operated by BikeLink, that can accommodate e-scooters, in addition to its very visible e-bike dock station.

Francisco Gimenez of Bernal Heights says, "Scooters are the best. Totally fun, mildly dangerous, and optimal speed for 1- to 2-mile travel." To Taylor Angel of Sunnyside, "Scooters are way better than the bikes! I've gotten hurt pretty badly on bikes, but never an issue with the scooters."

Not everyone is so enamored. Chris Faust of Glen Park says, "I do not ride scooters for the same reason I no longer ride a bike in San Francisco. The streets are in deplorable condition, especially adjacent to Muni tracks. Church Street and 30th Street especially are both pit-

ted with gaps and potholes ... Scooters are hard to see and offer no protection or any light to increase their visibility."

Following a one-year pilot program by SFMTA in October 2019, involving permits for up to 2,500 scooters—since increased to 4,500—the City has entered a new phase of issuing permits, to take effect in June. (The original one-year period was extended due to the pandemic.)

E-scooters are not just an alternative mode of transportation for local techies. They are entwined within the very fabric of social issues in San Francisco neighborhoods and beyond. In the past year or so, social issues have begun to shine brightly—due to the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, among other se-

ismic events—that were not adequately foreseen by operating companies. Among them is "spacial equity" in which scooter companies limit the availability of scooters by using "geofences."

Studies reveal high levels of availability in the dense northeast quadrant of San Francisco and little to no coverage in western neighborhoods.

For the new round of permits, SFMTA has added requirements to address social issues that have come to light during this time of reckoning. The companies must strengthen outreach to all communities; they must

guarantee that all neighborhoods in the city are served by scooters; and they must develop an adaptive program to ensure accessibility to scooters by the disabled. (Lime has recently come up with variations on e-scooters to accommodate different types of disabilities.)

SFMTA has extended permits for up to two years and can suspend them for health and safety violations.

One person who worked in the scooter industry, and prefers to remain anonymous, has some scathing observations:

"I grew up in San Francisco, so it pains me a lot to see the tech industry treat our communities as disposable and a playground. ... Management seemed totally blind to real issues that would impact the success and safety of introducing scooters to these areas, and completely downplayed and often outright ignored deaths in SF due to scooters; someone was killed on a scooter in downtown shortly after I started working for this company. Some companies try more than others to 'play nice' with local governments, but I think they were all trying to make a quick buck and a name for themselves in the tech scene.

"Most importantly to me, the scooter companies seemed to be completely aware that their technologies did not actually result in any environmental benefit; if anything, there is so much waste of materials and high cost of operation because of things like using vans to pick up scooters every day."

Unionization has also hit the scooter industry. In December, Spin voted to unionize. This action strikes at the heart of the employee-vs.-gig worker controversy, which was a high-profile California issue in the 2020 election. ♦



E-scooters in front of Café Bello.

Photo by Bonnee Waldstein

## Loss and Hope for Glen Park Businesses

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Eric Whittington's bookstore is an outlier among Glen Park businesses: He has seen an increase in volume at Bird & Beckett since pre-pandemic days. "Business is 20 percent better than it used to be," he said. There are lots of special orders, and browsers are as likely to check out the philosophy or history sections as the fiction shelves, he said. Kids' books are selling well, too—perhaps a reflection that the Glen Park branch library remains closed.

Whittington has stopped special deliveries, now that his customers can come to him. "It's good that I love sell-

ing books and putting on music," he remarked. In addition to livestreamed concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings, the bookshop now broadcasts monthly livestreamed conversations on in-the-news topics.

The bumpy progress of the health crisis has required the hands-on Pono salon to endure shutdowns twice and limit services to what was possible while wearing masks. But once San Francisco entered the orange tier of reopening rules, owner Debra Carvalho said, a full range of face and body treatments are on offer. Pono is limiting the number of clients to six at a time and is

following strict cleaning requirements between appointments.

Although Pono was debt-free by the beginning of the pandemic, Carvalho said the "challenging year" required her to take out a loan, despite "a small PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan to help keep the lights on." She also had to lay off her two employees during the first lockdown. But now she has expanded her space and says the landlords have been supportive of her tenancy.

Carvalho said she has learned important lessons in the past year about her feelings about her salon, including the importance of community. "I have also

learned that being flexible and adaptable is so very important as a business owner. These characteristics have kept me on a forward path and have kept me from spiraling into despair." ♦



A sign announced the closure of Tyger's.  
 Photo by Gail Bensinger



# Zoanne Nordstrom: Gum Tree Girl and

**G**len Park has lost one of its all-time champions: Zoanne Nordstrom, who lived on Surrey Street for more than 60 years and helped save Glen Canyon from decimation by the freeway lobby, died Feb. 15, at age 87, of the Covid-19 virus.

For decades, anyone out and about in the neighborhood would run into Nordstrom, whether in earlier days when she was walking her beloved dog Max, or schmoozing with her daily coffee klatch at her favorite meeting place, Higher Grounds Café on Chenery Street. When owner Manhal Jweinat would greet her and ask how she was, she'd invariably answer, "I'm great—now that I'm here!"

She was born in Hollywood and raised by a single mother. She worked from the age of 13 to help support the family. While attending UC Berkeley, where she got her BA in English, she managed an apartment building to pay her tuition and expenses. She got her master's degree in psychology from SF State, while working multiple jobs.

Nordstrom was married for about 20 years to Reginald Theriault. (When they divorced, she went back to her maiden name.) She is survived by their sons, Raymond and Marcus (a third son, Thomas, predeceased her); her brother, Alan, and three grandchildren.

Her husband was a longshoreman and later a union organizer. When their children were small, Nordstrom took them to the fields to pick fruit along with the migrant workers.

Her working career was at City College of San Francisco, where she was chair of the Child Development department. She also ran the Child Development Center where, in addition to caring for the children, she



Jeff DeMark and Zoanne Nordstrom in 2016. Photo courtesy Jeff DeMark



Michael Rice with Zoanne Nordstrom at the Glen Park Association's holiday party at the Sunnyside Conservatory in 2013. Photo by Denis Wade

taught classes for their parents in child-rearing and nutrition.

Nordstrom's activism in Glen Park and San Francisco was legendary and boundless. But if there's one thing she is famous (or infamous) for, it was for her role in the so-called Freeway Revolt.

One day she and her friend Joan Seiwald spotted a surveyor putting stakes in the ground on Bosworth Street. When he told them it was for an elevated freeway that was to run crosstown, above Glen Canyon Park, Nordstrom told him, "Like hell you'll build a freeway!"

This cause celebre became known as the Freeway Revolt, and lasted from 1965 to 1970. Nordstrom, along with Seiwald and Geri Arkush, campaigned relentlessly and successfully to kill the project, and earned the nickname "the Gum Tree Girls," after the blue gum eucalyptus trees in the park that would be mowed down by the planned freeway.

"It wasn't a compliment," Seiwald noted drolly. "The City Hall men hated us. We were beating them, one of the world's greatest sins."

Seiwald, who has lived on Burnside Avenue for about 60 years, is now the last surviving member of the Gum Tree

Girls trio. Arkush died in 1999.

Nordstrom and Seiwald were personal friends from the time their kids were small. Seiwald had five kids to Nordstrom's three, each with a boy the same age. "We hit it off," Seiwald said. "We were both teachers—I was a school librarian and taught English to Spanish-speaking students and social studies."

With all they had in common, they differed in politics, of all things. Nordstrom was a flaming liberal; Seiwald is very conservative. "So we never brought it up, never discussed it. It was never a problem."

Another issue that set Nordstrom off, in 1996-97, was a plan to pave the gravel Alms Road in Glen Canyon Park so cars could more easily drive in to drop their kids off at the Glenridge nursery

school and Silver Tree day camp, deep within the park. Nordstrom thought this idea was absurd and unsafe, and that part of the kids' exercise, fresh air and recreation were about walking there and back. "It ain't gonna happen," Nordstrom swore to Park and Rec.

She counted the cars dropping off kids, took down the license plates, and determined that 95 percent of them came from outside the city. She also noted that cars would drive along the path at 25 to 30 mph. She told Mayor Willie Brown there needed to be a City policy that the majority of children in the programs should be from San Francisco, and public transportation to get there was necessary in the summers.

Nordstrom didn't focus only on big community issues. She took others under her wing in a very personal way, as when she rented out a space in her home to a new arrival in San Francisco, Jeff DeMark, in the late 1980s.

In an essay he wrote after she died, DeMark—originally from Madison, Wis., now an actor and writer in Blue Lake, northeast of Eureka—recalled, "I lived at her house for three years and she changed my life with her way of dealing with the world, her attitude about money, philanthropy, her optimism, her fighting spirit, her down-home practicality. I left in 1990 but she would let me and my family stay there almost any time and we went to many ball games together. She said I had 'Former renter's squatter's rights for life.'"

He credited Nordstrom with "showing me how to live, look at money as a means to an end, something that's in flow rather than to be afraid of, approaching life as an adventure and how to be fearless. How to believe in myself above all."

Once, she asked him, "You're not really worried about money, are you?"

I said I was, and she asked why. I answered, 'Because I don't have any.'

"But you'll always be OK. Money will come to you. I'll lend you whatever you want."

## MORE ABOUT ZOANNE NORDSTROM

The story of how the Gum Tree Girls helped save Glen Canyon Park is recalled by Evelyn Rose, director and founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, on the group's website:

[glenparkhistory.org/freeway-revolt-in-glen-park](http://glenparkhistory.org/freeway-revolt-in-glen-park)

A tribute to Zoanne Nordstrom by the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project is at:

[glenparkhistory.wixsite.com/glenparkhistory/list-of-posts](http://glenparkhistory.wixsite.com/glenparkhistory/list-of-posts)



# Neighborhood Activist Dies at Age 87

In the end, DeMark never borrowed money from her, “but the way she approached life, how she staked each of her sons to a house or land, how she supported so many organizations ... it just amazed me you could live like that and thrive. Her humor, her fierceness and compassion were defining characteristics. ... I credit Zoe with so much of the good that’s happened since I moved west. She’s the ultimate example of ‘Pay it forward.’”

Nordstrom was president of the Glen Park Association from 1998 through 2002. Michael Rice, another neighborhood stalwart, followed Nordstrom in that office in 2004, after two years as vice president. He remembers her as a mentor as well as a friend.

Rice first attended a GPA meeting when he wanted to speak in favor of a project that the association was considering opposing. “I called Zoanne and asked if I could speak on this agenda item. Zoanne said, ‘Of course. We always want to hear all sides of these issues.’ After a bit more conversation, Zoanne said, ‘Michael, I can see you are really interested in Glen Park. Would you like to be an officer? The vice president position is vacant.’”

“Without thinking too much, I said yes. That started a great experience, watching Zoanne run GPA meetings, firmly take on controversy, be clear on goals for the neighborhood, and over time, say, ‘Michael, I’ve been president for a long time. When are you stepping up?’

“After I became president, Zoanne was always ready to give advice, share her knowledge of City workings and opinions on Glen Park issues, and, also, tell me if I was going down a tricky path.”

In later years, Rice recalled, “I would mostly see Zoanne as she walked back from morning coffee at Higher Grounds. She’d say I was doing a great job, and I would say she had showed me the way. Zoanne showed all us the way to be a neighbor.”

Nordstrom was a strong supporter of the library, market and housing complex that was built at the intersection of Diamond and Wilder streets in 2006. She knew that San Francisco had a housing shortage, and she focused on supporting inclusion of residential units in the project, especially since it was near BART. She wanted to keep big-box stores out of the neighborhood.

More recently she advocated for the Glen Park Rec Center renovation of 2016.

Unsurprisingly, Nordstrom was a lifelong advocate for women’s rights and recognition, starting when she managed an apartment building in Berkeley in her youth. She took a stand in all the city elections, and felt strongly that more women needed to be in elected office.

At City College, she met her best friend of more than 40 years, Margaret (Peggy) Guichard, who was chair of the Health Care Technology department. Guichard lives in Saratoga.

Nordstrom was also dear friends with Roger Sanders, director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Development during Willie Brown’s administration, and Nordstrom served on its Citizens Committee. They were also together on the board of San Francisco Tomorrow, an environmental advocacy group.

In interviews with the *Glen Park News*, both Guichard and Sanders brimmed with recollections about

Nordstrom and her sterling qualities.

“Zoanne had an opinion about most things, and she was terrific. And she was right 99 percent of the time,” Guichard observed. “She never did these things for selfish reasons. She always did them with the thought of the community, the health of the children. She was really motivated by those factors.”

They note that her feisty determination was always backed up by research and due diligence. She cared deeply about Glen Park because that’s where she and her neighbors were raising their kids.

Nordstrom, Guichard, Sanders and his partner have been family to each other. “We traveled together, enjoyed holidays together, haunted the flea markets, and went gambling in Las Vegas all night on New Year’s Eve,” Sanders said. She loved the terrifying rides at Great America, he recalled: “Let’s do it again!” she’d say after the first ride was over.

Nordstrom was a Giants season ticketholder. She, Sanders and his partner went to baseball games together. After a few drinks at the Glen Park Station bar, they’d be in a great mood and hop on BART to the ballpark. They’d eat hot dogs and often they’d have another drink at the Station on the way home, Guichard recalled.

Guichard and Nordstrom traveled together a lot, to Europe and Disneyland, among other places. Nordstrom was of Norwegian heritage. Her favorite destination was Tromsø, a town in Norway above the Arctic Circle, where she had family.

Her home on Surrey Street was filled with eclectic art, ranging from vintage prints of women’s fashion to works of original art.

Of the many facets of Nordstrom’s life, the two things she loved most were in Glen Park—Higher Grounds Café, where she enjoyed daily lattes and talk of “politics, politics and politics”—and Glen Canyon Park, especially as she got older. She was so happy that it existed, that the City invested in it, and that people were using it, including those from other neighborhoods.

There’s a Glen Park history sign along Alms Road that commemorates the Gum Tree Girls era. Sanders recounted that, on their last walk through the canyon, a woman looked at Nordstrom and asked, “Is this your first time here?”—right beside the plaque that has the Gum Tree Girls’ history on it. Sanders told her Nordstrom’s picture was right there. The woman couldn’t get over that, and she just wanted to talk with Nordstrom. It made Nordstrom’s day.

Nordstrom’s health declined in recent years and, when the pandemic hit, she rarely went out. Her friends shopped for her and brought food in.

When asked how he will remember Nordstrom, Sanders says, “I will miss her for the rest of my life. I will think about her every day. She was so close. And believe me, Zoanne and I had many fights. We had many arguments, but you want to know something? It didn’t make a difference.”

Of their long friendship, Guichard said, “Zoanne is the best friend I’ve had for over 40 years, and for all women, an absolute role model. In all that time the only disagreement we had was: I was a fan of term limits and she wasn’t. She was a smart, smart, savvy woman.” ♦

## The Gum Tree Girls *For Zoanne Nordstrom*

Walking through Glen Park Canyon  
Cold December afternoon  
Eucalyptus trees towering  
Swaying and dancing  
Tended paths meander  
through bushes  
And a fairy altar in the rocks:  
“An old gnome home”

Couples and families strolling  
in this refuge of beauty and calm  
jagged rock formations up above  
as if we walked in a Utah canyon  
in the middle of San Francisco

This beautiful refuge  
almost bulldozed  
50 years ago  
for a four lane freeway

Three neighborhood women  
stood up to power,  
mocked as dreamers, deluded,  
doomed to fail  
laughed at as “the Gum Tree Girls”  
because they loved those  
blue gum Eucalyptus trees

But power bent to the dreamers  
a freeway lost to trees, rocks  
and tranquility.

50 years later no SUVs,  
Harleys or Hondas  
disturb swaying and dancing  
blue gum Eucalyptus trees,



Photo courtesy of Glen Park  
Neighborhoods History Project

couples hold hands on paths  
and kids run wild as parents trail

time passes slowly  
and quietly  
in Glen Park Canyon.

One Gum Tree Girl,  
Zoe Nordstrom,  
lead rabble rouser,  
self-described  
“shit stirrer supreme”  
Said 50 years later:

“My motto is:  
‘Ya gotta try.  
If you don’t try  
Ya got no complaints.’”

— Jeff DeMark, December 2016



# Colorful Ohlone Way Mural Comes to Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to have the mural created as her present. Time passed, the mural didn't get painted, and their family grew. Then a major remodeling project presented an opportunity.

"There was scaffolding in place already, and we were already spending all this money on remodeling, so spending for a mural didn't seem like it was going to be too much more. We were really pleased to add to the tradition of public art in San Francisco," Harris said.

They started with the idea of an homage to San Francisco and the Ohlone people, who are native to the Northern California coast from San Francisco Bay through Monterey Bay to the lower Salinas Valley.

Bands of the Ohlone people lived in 50 distinct landholding groups and traditionally subsisted on hunting, fishing and gathering. With Spanish colonization of California, and especially after California became a state in 1850, the population of Indigenous Californians was decimated through massacres sanctioned by the state government.

The Ohlone people residing in San Francisco and San Mateo counties belong to the Ramaytush, one of eight

regional or linguistic subgroups of the Ohlone.

Unlike many unmarked lanes and alleyways in San Francisco, Ohlone Way has an official street sign on both ends, at Surrey and at Sussex streets. A former Van Buren Street resident, Dolan Eargle, had a good deal to do with the signage, lobbying the City to officially recognize the lane.

Epstein and Coburn decided that to honor the Ohlone people native to our area, their mural should show the local flora and fauna, rather than depicting buildings, people and artifacts.

"We chose the most charismatic we could think of—Mission blue butterfly, red-tail hawk, coyote, California poppies, yarrow, lupine." It's meant to imagine the landscape before the city was a city and to pay tribute to it.

Along the fences beyond his house, Epstein has created a garden with an array of succulents and other drought-tolerant plants.

Josué Rojas, a muralist, was recommended to Epstein and Coburn by a friend, another muralist. Rojas was raised in the Mission District. He says he was drawing before he could write and ultimately earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in painting.

"As a teenager I was going through a lot of tumultuous moments. I lost my father and a cousin, and I had a lot of issues and pain. Around then I was discovered by Precita Eyes Center and they gave me a paintbrush," he said.

Rojas laments that there weren't a lot of art classes in the public schools in San Francisco when he was growing up; it wasn't a priority. In recent years, this has begun to change and there's more of a push for arts in the schools.

For two decades Rojas ran cultural arts programs to benefit the Latinx community in the Mission District, the most recent being Acción Latina. He has since gone full-time into his own practice. "Covid brought a lot of

things to light and reminded me that I'm at my best with a brush in my hand. That's what I really want to do," he explained.

The mural, "This is Ohlone Land," is his second commission.

Together Rojas, Epstein and Coburn worked through design iterations at the end of 2020. Rojas put the various elements of the mural together digitally from a series of sketches and mock-ups. Once the painting got underway, it took about six weeks to complete.

Others contributed to the mural, and are recognized in an inscription on it. Rojas was assisted by "Pablito Something," the name he goes by artistically, and one of his understudies, "MEG." The mural is dedicated to Epstein's grandmother, "E.R."—Ethel Ratner, who recently passed away at the age of 101.

The mural is coated with a protective clear coat, which has UV protection, and in the unfortunate possibility of tagging, graffiti can be wiped off with alcohol.

There are many ways to put up a mural, but Rojas noted that the location of this one presented some unique obstacles. Challenges were presented

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The completed mural covers the Ohlone Way side of Epstein and Coburn's house.

Photo courtesy Josué Rojas





Artist Josué Rojas next to his mural.

Photos by Bonnee Waldstein

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

by the massive size, the scaffolding needed, and integrating the house's pipes and hardware into the mural.

A particular limitation was the work environment itself.

"It was hard to step back," he said. "Generally, I'm able to look at my work from across the street, or a half block away. Here I have maybe 25 feet of distance from which to view it" as it's taking shape.

As the mural was being painted, and now that it's finished, Epstein enjoys chatting with the many passersby who stop to admire and learn about it. The

idea for the mural was so that everyone could enjoy it.

Rojas also sees the mural as a symbol and a reminder:

"It's a call and challenge to remind folks to be grateful for this bountiful place, and that there were people here before," he said. "There was always something before, the originators, right? And it's important to know that, when you see an Indigenous face, these people are still alive—a few—and to show that amount of respect and visibility, kindness and love for what was here before. And that's the general spirit of this work." ♦



A coyote is featured in the mural.



vision wellness &amp; eyewear

Dr. Carrie Lee, O.D.  
Optometrist2786 Diamond Street  
San Francisco, CA 94131

(415) 334-2020

www.eyedentityvision.com

- Comprehensive adult and pediatric eye exams
- Contact lens fittings • Screenings for glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration • Emergency appointments • LASIK surgery evaluation and co-management • Customized eyeglasses and sunglasses
- Eyeglass repairs and adjustments

vsp Vision Service Plan accepted



## NEW PATIENT SPECIAL!

Comprehensive Exam with X-rays for \$189

Call 415 • 585 • 1500

to schedule your appointment today!

\* mention the Glen Park News and get a free home whitening kit! \*

Dr. Longa and Dr. Dickerson Longa are highly skilled in all areas of Family Dentistry, including:

- pediatric dentistry
- sleep apnea/snoring
- periodontal therapy
- smile makeovers
- neuromuscular dentistry
- Invisalign
- TMJ disorders
- veneers
- whitening
- implants

Their goal is to provide the highest level of care and advanced technology to their patients, educate all ages to proper and healthy dental care, and to make their expertise accessible to everyone in their community.



GLEN PARK DENTAL  
590 Bosworth Street • San Francisco

Conveniently located across the street from Glen Park BART!



## ✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

**T**his February, the Glen Park Garden Club dipped into a huge topic: How to Attract Butterflies To Your Garden. Undaunted by the reams of information available and some controversy in the subject, Garden Club member Michele Lundy gave us an inspiring talk. Some of the highlights:

**Garden Basics:** Plant a wide variety of colorful flowering plants to attract butterflies and other pollinators. Avoid the use of chemicals, because butterflies are sensitive to pesticides and herbicides. Some caterpillars hide in the soil during the day or live in the leaf litter, so don't smother the soil with heavy bark mulch or fabric. You need to pull weeds by hand in critter-friendly gardens. Butterflies may sip water from mud puddles, so a bit of damp bare soil is helpful. A bird bath overhead that drips water is ideal.

**Butterfly Basics:** Butterflies lay eggs on plant leaves, which hatch and turn into larvae (aka caterpillars), which then eat the leaves. The caterpillars enlarge through molting and finally turn into tougher chrysalis (aka pupa), which often hang down under a leaf or twig. Inside the chrysalis, a metamorphosis occurs. A week or two later, the exquisite butterfly emerges, stretches its wings in the sun and flies off to sip nectar and mate. Some adults may migrate for hundreds of miles. Here are some of our local favorites:

**West Coast Painted Lady.** A large orange and black butterfly with white markings, this migratory butterfly lays eggs on a wide range of plants, includ-

ing those in the Asteraceae (plants with compound flowers like daisies), borage, mallow and thistles. The pupa/caterpillar may wander around the garden looking for tasty plants and a place to pupate. It will build a silky web around the leaves. The adults sip nectar from thistles, clovers and asters.

**Anise Swallowtail.** A large butterfly, black with a striking yellow markings. This lovely creature feeds on members of the parsley family such as fennel and Fernleaf Biscuitroot (*Lomatium dissectum*). It flies along the coastal areas seeking places to lay eggs and often visits home gardens.

**Mission Blue Butterfly.** Endemic to this area, but endangered due to habitat loss. The remaining populations are on San Bruno Mountain. They are poor flyers and are not likely to flutter from the mountain down to your garden even if you plant California blue lupines, the only plant the species uses for eggs and the tiny green larvae. But you can still help by supporting the Mission Blue Nursery—their aim is to restore the mountain's Mission Blue habitats. And it's a great place to buy native plants for your butterfly garden.

**Green Hairstreak.** This bright green butterfly is included to illustrate the concept of corridors. Butterflies are on the move fairly constantly. They will have a better chance of survival if they can travel through your garden and then visit your neighbor's garden, then a vacant lot or alley planted with suitable plants. The local organization Nature In The City has helped create a Green Hairstreak habitat in the Sunset district. With the help of neighbors



The black and yellow Western Tiger Swallowtail.

Photo courtesy of David A. Hoffmann/Creative Commons



The endangered Variable Checkerspot.

Photo courtesy of Wanderingnome/Creative Commons

and volunteers, they have created a corridor of backyard lots and vacant sites cleaned up and planted with the host and nectar plants. The Green Hairstreak thrives there.

**Western Tiger Swallowtail.** This gorgeous black and yellow creature survives happily in downtown San Francisco because of the efforts of experts such as Liam O'Brien and Amanda Hasselbring, who advocated against destruction of habitat including the London plane trees on Market Street. They have worked with the City and businesses to plant butterfly-friendly plants. This Tiger, which has a wingspan of 4 inches, lays its eggs on tree leaves, and sips nectar from many flowering plants

**Variable Checkerspot.** Sometimes seen in local gardens, this lovely, endangered butterfly is brilliantly patterned in brown, white, red and black. At about 2 inches across, this tiny butterfly is a treasure. The adults enjoy nectar plants such as yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) and lay their eggs on the coastal sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus auranticus*).

**Red Admiral.** An elegant small black and red butterfly often seen in our gardens all year round. The adults prefer to lay their eggs on nettles and sip nectar from asters, goldenrod and milkweed. The pupa live in nests of folded leaves, tied together with silk.

**Monarch.** It is impossible to write about butterflies without mentioning this iconic species, endangered by climate change, herbicides and loss of habitat. However, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, we can all help by planting native milkweeds, such as *Asclepius californica*, and other native plants.



The endangered Monarch Butterfly.

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons user donsutherland1

### Resources:

- [fws.gov/savethemonarch/](https://fws.gov/savethemonarch/)
- [natureinthecity.org](https://natureinthecity.org). Butterfly corridors and more.
- [baynature.org](https://baynature.org). Magazine website, super illustrations.
- [mountainwatch.org](https://mountainwatch.org). San Bruno mountain information (with links to Mission Blue Nursery, where butterfly-attracting native plants are sold).
- [www.butterflyidentification.com](https://www.butterflyidentification.com).
- [butterfly.ucdavis.edu](https://butterfly.ucdavis.edu). Art Shapiro's Butterfly Site. Useful list of plants. ♦

*Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. For more information about the garden club, contact her at [kay.estey@gmail.com](mailto:kay.estey@gmail.com).*



# Richland Bridge Restoration Underway

The Richland Avenue Bridge is now closed for railing repair, paving the way for a mural on the concrete piers that suspend it over San Jose Avenue.

Working under the management of San Francisco Public Works, contractors Gordon N. Ball, Inc. plan to demolish and rebuild the bridge's crumbling north and south railings and patch its substructure. At the end of the project—which is estimated to take between six months and a year—the streetlights on the bridge will be replaced, according to Public Works.

The work, which began April 6, has long been planned, and nearby neighbors saw an opportunity for beautification. The College Hill Neighborhood Association, which transformed the pedestrian path above the east side of

San Jose Avenue with native plants, informative signs and solar lights, will begin outreach about the mural.

“This was put on hold because of the pandemic, but we’re ready to start back up again,” said Sophie Constantinou of the association, which also hosts regular cleanups along both sides of the roadway known as the Bernal Cut. In 2019, the group won a \$150,000 Community Challenge Grant to paint a mural on the 40-foot square piers supporting the bridge. They will work with muralist André Jones of the Bay Area Mural Program.

Community meetings, held virtually and outdoors, are being planned to review the designs and ideas for the mural.

“Hopefully we’ll build some deeper connections across the span of San Jose [Avenue] with the hope of truly bridging the Cut between Glen Park and

Bernal Glen,” Constantinou said.

Meanwhile, snarled traffic will likely unite the two sides. According to Grace Moore of Public Works, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is working on a plan to detour traffic to Randall and Bosworth streets.

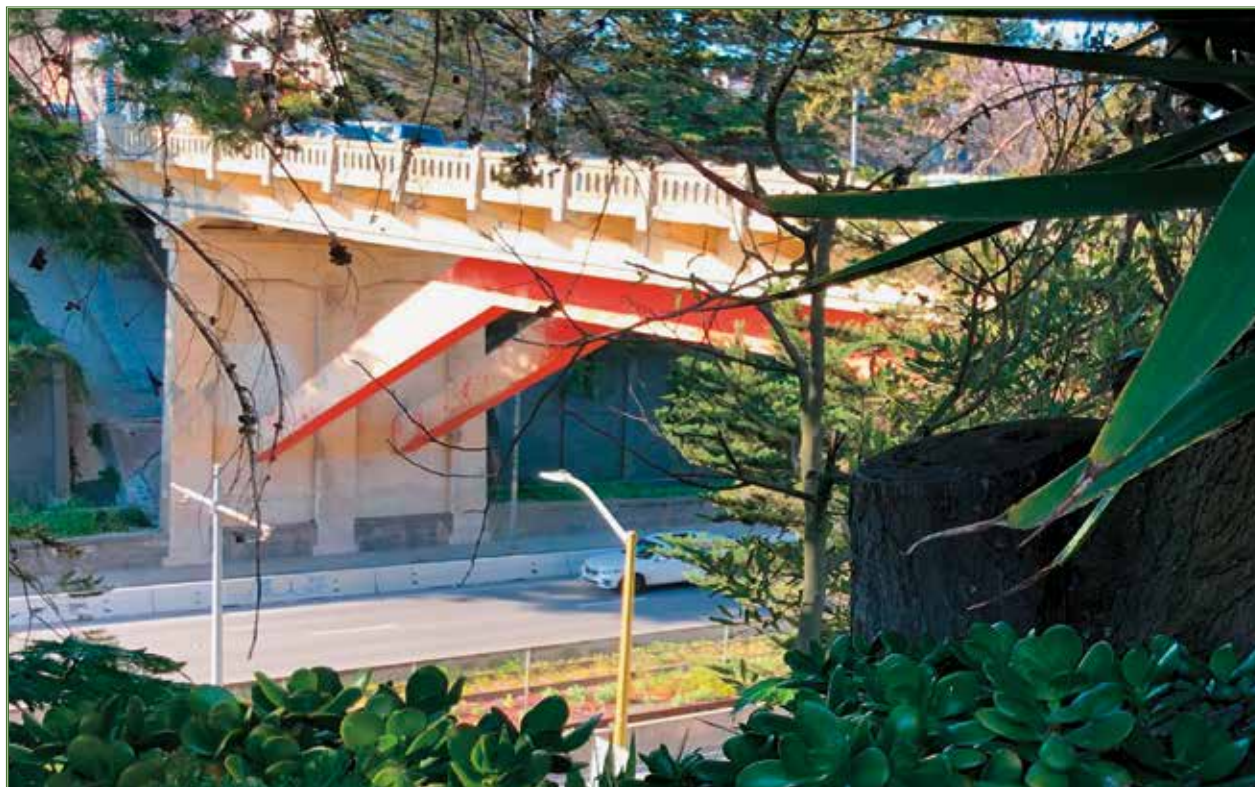
“There will not be traffic detours permitted onto Arlington Street, except for pedestrians and bicyclists,” Moore said. At present, Arlington is part of the City’s pandemic-induced Slow Streets program, meant to give street space to pedestrians and bicyclists, although neighbors have complained that it is not well enough marked as such.

The Richland Bridge’s smaller cousin to the north, the Highland Bridge, underwent the same repair six years ago. That work took approximately six months, which was also the time frame initially quoted by the contractors for the Richland Bridge. A late-

March update by Public Works puts the anticipated time closer to a year, with the bridge reopening next March.

For more information, visit the Public Works website’s project page or contact the contractor, Gordon N. Ball, Inc. at 925-838-5675. To learn more about the mural, visit [BernalCut.org](http://BernalCut.org). ♦

PLEASE  
SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS;  
THEY SUPPORT  
US!



The Richland Bridge over San Jose Avenue, top and its broken railing, above.  
Photos by Gail Bensinger

## Dalere's Beauty Salon

Hair Designs by Glory and Marian  
Serving Glen Park Since 1968

Thank You For Your Support!



660 Chenery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
(415) 586-3980  
(Closed Sunday and Tuesday)

## Law Office of Jonathan McCurdy

Legal Services in Your Home  
Since 1977



P.O. Box 720125  
San Francisco, CA 94172

Tel: 415-505-3273  
Fax: 415-826-9177

## REVIVE YOUR HEALTH!

Call 415-823-9333

Ashley Hathaway, Holistic Health Practitioner

Specializing in:

**Weight Loss & Digestive Health  
Pain & Stress Management**

San Francisco Nutritional Therapy & Theraphi Center

[www.sfnutritionaltherapy.com](http://www.sfnutritionaltherapy.com) • [www.theraphisf.com](http://www.theraphisf.com)

[ashleycntsf@gmail.com](mailto:ashleycntsf@gmail.com)



# Local BART Station a National Treasure

While the jury of popular opinion may still be out, the Glen Park BART Station has been nationally recognized for its distinctive architectural design. Lovers of the style known as Brutalism and the Bay Area's Modernist architecture have long championed this building as exemplary of how infrastructure and functional buildings can be elevated through thoughtful design.

Some BART riders may find the exposed, board-formed concrete to be cold or imposing, while others will note the artistic details—the warm brick paving at the entrance, and the light-filled space and multi-colored marble wall that greet you as you rise up on the escalators from the train platform. The butterfly roof stands dramatically above the on-ramp to I-280, while the siting of the station on the hill allows the scale of the building to feel appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood context of Glen Park village.

John King, the *San Francisco Chronicle's* eminent architecture critic, has called the Glen Park Station the best in the now 50-station BART system, describing it in his book *Cityscape: San Francisco and Its Buildings* as “tucked deep inside the earth, under a raised muscular shell, [where] trains rush in and out through a brooding grandeur of rough concrete against polished stone, blunt structural beams, and sharp shafts of light.”

In October 2019, the Bay Area Rapid Transit station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, known as the National Register, which is an official list of the nation's most



The lobby at Glen Park BART Station.

Photos courtesy of Creative Commons user Pi.1415926535

historic places, maintained by the National Park Service.

Local architectural historian Christopher VerPlanck, who wrote the National Register nomination, states that “Glen Park BART station is widely recognized as the crown jewel of the BART system and also as one of the finest examples of Brutalism in San Francisco” and that “it remains as visually powerful today as the day it opened in 1973.”

Some may guess that the term “Brutalism” has to do with the imposing nature of many large institutional concrete buildings. However, the term is understood to be derived from the French term *béton brut*, meaning “raw concrete”—referring to the practice popularized by architects such as Le

Corbusier of leaving concrete unfinished, revealing the methods of construction.

The Glen Park BART Station certainly has the distinctive qualities of Brutalist design. Riding on the escalators, you can see the texture of the wood grain imprinted from the wood board formwork when the concrete was poured. However, as VerPlanck observed, some of the features of Glen Park station—such as the butterfly roof with its projecting steel beams—demonstrate the influence of a more regional flavor of Modernism, known as the Second Bay Regional Tradition.

The Second Bay Regional Tradition blended the machine-age aesthetic of the International Style of Modernism with a more woodsy aesthetic, local materials and sensitivity to the local environment of the Bay Area.

The station is the work of San Francisco-born architect Ernest Born, with the local firm Corlett & Spackman and landscape architect Douglas Baylis. Born was first hired by BART in his capacity as a graphic designer, working on graphic identity and programmatic design for the initial 33-station system.

Although he was incredibly gifted as a designer and an architect, few of Born's designs were ever constructed. His other notable works include the North Beach public housing project (since demolished), several homes designed in the mode of the Second Bay Region Tradition, and the Balboa Park BART Station (which has seen more alteration than the Glen Park station).

According to VerPlanck's account in the National Register nomination, the Glen Park BART Station was Born's crowning achievement in his own view, and Born retired, feeling accomplished, when the station was completed.

Although it opened to the public with the entire BART system on Nov. 5, 1973, the Glen Park station was years in the making. After decades of planning for the system, excavation began at Glen Park in September 1969 and construction was completed by the spring of 1972.

Because of the pandemic, most of us are not riding BART as much as we used to—if at all. But the next time you do venture downtown or to the airport on BART, stop to appreciate the light filtering down through the butterfly roof and pause to take in the beautiful selection and composition of the red, green and gray-hued marble panels along the southwest wall. You may just fall in love. At the very least, you may gain a new appreciation for the history of architectural design and transportation infrastructure right here in Glen Park. ♦

*Hannah Simonson is an architectural historian, the current president of the Northern California chapter of Docomomo US, and on the advisory committee for the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project. In recent years, Docomomo US/Northern California has organized a number of “walking” tours of the BART system. You can learn more at [docomomo-noca.org](http://docomomo-noca.org).*



The marble mural, by Ernest Born, in the lobby of the Glen Park BART Station.



# A Pandemic Plan: Walk Every SF Street

**A**s we near the one-year anniversary of pandemic quarantines, lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, many of us have come to know what lies outside our own front doors better. We've gone for walks close to home, hoofed it to stores we might once have driven to and generally focused on local neighborhoods.

But however deeply we delve into Glen Park and environs, the palimpsest that Joy Durighello, 68, sees brings a richness that she recently shared with the *Glen Park News*. Her roots go back more than 60 years, and the changes she's seen make a few slow streets added here and there seem like nothing.

The Durighello family home was originally at 580 Bosworth St. "Our Bosworth house was built by an Italian builder in the 1930s, and there was a wine cellar in the basement in addition to a recess in the floor of the garage where someone could work on the undercarriage of a car while standing up."

On Google Maps, though, that address is located under the I-280 freeway underpass, because in 1964 government officials seized the land their house stood on under eminent domain to build the freeway. The house itself was relocated to the Bayview district.

Remarkably, it wasn't the first time the Durighello family was forced to move. In 1956 the City commandeered the flat they rented on 17th Street near Guerrero to make way for the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club that still fronts Guerrero.

Their origin story is one that's familiar to all immigrants. Her father Romolo emigrated from Northern Italy. Then 17, he came in 1922 to find work, first in a lumber yard in Weed, near Mt. Shasta, then in San Francisco as a dishwasher at Vanessi's restaurant in North Beach. Eventually, he became owner of Caruso's on Taylor Street, then worked into his 70s as a delivery man for iconic San Francisco bakeries Boudin and Parisian.

His wife Maria arrived in 1950. Primarily a homemaker, she also collected subscription money for the daily San Francisco Call Bulletin, which ceased publication in 1965. The couple purchased their Martha Avenue home when Joy was 11 and her brother Paul was 13.

Young Joy attended St. John the Evangelist's Grammar School, across the Bernal Cut from Glen Park, and then the now-closed St. John Ursuline Girls Catholic High School at Mission and Bosworth Streets.

Joy Durighello found a child's delight roaming Glen Park, a neighborhood then much wilder than today. On Martha Street in the mid-'60s, lots remained empty and automobile traffic was practically nonexistent.

There were many more butterflies then, she recalled. "There were swallowtails, buckeyes, admirals, probably because there were so many undeveloped city lots and other open spaces."

Once, when she was 6 or 7, she remembers seeing a white horse on the Glen Park canyon hillside close to Portola Drive.

"Kids used pieces of cardboard to slide down the slope between San Jose Avenue and Bosworth. Part of the slope is still there, just past the I-280 overpass," she said.

Walking to school, she passed the Ray Oil Burner Company on San Jose Avenue between Milton and Rousseau Streets. A metal sign affixed to the brick façade offered a \$25 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone vandalizing the red brick. "I used to dream about what I could buy with \$25!"



Joy Durighello prunes eucalyptus branches at the base of the Detroit Street steps.

Photos by Murray Schneider

She went on to earn a BA from Berkeley in Italian and French, then an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language at San Francisco State University, which led to a position teaching English at City College for more than 25 years. She walked back and forth to work until she retired in 2017.

During the pandemic she has spent time caring for her 100-year-old mother, and helping spruce up the 186 treads of the Detroit Street steps in the Sunnyside neighborhood, off Monterey Boulevard. She's been volunteering twice a week to help keep the stairs looking good.

But her most ambitious pandemic plan, launched in April 2020, is to walk every street in San Francisco. "It's easy, needs no planning or equipment, costs nothing, and almost always pays off with visual stimulation or interesting chance encounters," she said. "I've met so many neighbors while walking to work over the years, even been invited to their parties."

Her journeys have taken her far and wide—and taught her that not all

neighborhoods are created equal. The Outer Sunset district, for instance, can be as mind-numbing as counting grains of sand, which is what the tightly packed, nondescript rowhouses are built upon.

"I prefer quirkiness," she said. "I look forward to exploring Bernal Heights or Precita Park, which have narrow roads, lots of hills and views, interesting architecture, cul-de-sacs and alleyways, little surprise staircases and small, family-owned businesses."

She has a few more areas to finish up, including the outlands of the Richmond and Marina districts, and the slopes of Pacific Heights and Russian Hill.

And she's found that traveling through space can sometimes feel like traveling through time. "I didn't know I'd enjoy the Excelsior as much as I have," she said of the neighborhood that lies south of us, between Glen Park and McLaren Park. People still sit in front of their homes, there are unique houses, and it's bubbling with demographic diversity.

"It reminds me of Glen Park growing up." ♦



Joy Durighello holds a San Francisco map, indicating which streets she has walked to complete her goal of walking every city street in one year.



# Pickleball Phenomenon Perks Up Players

Two years ago, serendipity enriched Paul Johnson's life, catapulting him from a pickleball amateur to a professional ranking and national recognition as a top-tier player.

"I was walking in Glen Canyon, an absolute secret gem where it's hard to believe by Murray Schneider you're in the middle of San Francisco, and I stumbled upon the Recreation Center's gym," he said. "I thought I'd go inside and have a look."

He came upon three courts accommodating a dozen pickleball players.

"I'd never heard of pickleball," he continued. "The next thing I know, I hear from a friendly voice, 'Come in and grab a paddle.'"

The game is played on badminton courts and utilizes a specially manufactured ball. "Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country," he told the *Glen Park News* in an interview in March.

Johnson, a Detroit Street resident, emigrated to the United States seven years ago from Pershore, England, a provincial town near Birmingham. He founded and operates Lemonaid Health, an online health provider that employs 130 people across the United States.

No stranger to court sports, Johnson has become a celebrated pickleball player, now at a level that allows him to participate in professional tournaments.

"My father used to say I played tennis before I could walk," he said. Exchanging a childhood tennis racket for a pickleball paddle was a no-brainer, especially since Rec and Park has been so welcoming.



Paul Johnson stands, center, beams after winning his first tournament, the West Regional Pickleball Tournament in Southern California. Photos courtesy of Paul Johnson

Well before Covid-19 changed our lives, the Glen Park Recreation Center had extended a hospitable hello to picklers, encouraging them to share the Rec Center gym with basketball, volleyball and badminton players. Since March

2020, with the closure of indoor facilities, pickleball has been outsourced to several outdoor City courts, including Louis Sutter Playground in McLaren Park, where two underutilized tennis courts have been transformed into six courts dedicated to pickleball.

As Covid-19 raged last year, Glen Park's indoor recreation facility was converted into an Emergency Child and Youth Care Center to provide a safe place for children of first responders, health care workers and essential City employees.

Pickleball players have found havens at Louis Sutter, Upper Noe, Stern Grove and Presidio Wall playgrounds. Players adhere to courtside Covid protocols such as bringing sanitizers to use after touching surfaces, wearing masks, remaining six feet from others, and even returning a ball by hitting it with a paddle or rolling it without touching it.

Accustomed to roaming as far afield as Palo Alto and Concord to find players at his skill level—and in December to

Newport Beach to compete in his first professional tournament—Johnson is looking forward to volleying at Golden Gate Park's newly opened Lisa and Douglas Goldman Tennis Center, which includes five pickleball courts.

The Sutter and Goldman courts bear evidence of the sport's growing popularity, particularly engaging middle-aged-and-up men and women. In 2015, numbers showed that 68 percent of pickleball players were over 60. But Wellington Chen, who kickstarted the Glen Park Rec Center's paddle sport in 2017, said the player demographic is getting younger.

Prior to the pandemic, Friday night indoor participation at the Rec Center surged to 50 players or more an evening. The sport has become so popular that after a completed match, waiting courtside for a rematch often took an hour or more. Before the March 2020 lockdown, the Rec Center scheduled six-plus hours of pickleball weekly.

"The increasing access to recreational facilities is encouraging," said Johnson. "I spent my life playing tennis, and now several days a week I find physical exercise, mental release, friendship, fun and community on outdoor pickleball courts that allow for both walk-ons and reservations."

Johnson's first officially sanctioned pickleball meet was the West Regional Pickleball Tournament in Southern California in 2019. He won a gold in the singles competition at the 4.5 level, the second-highest level. He and his doubles partner competed at the Newport Beach Tournament in December against brothers Ben and Collin Johns, two of the most respected competitors in the country, and won one game of a three-game match.

Johnson modestly acknowledges that his burnished skill set is above that of typical Glen Park players. "When I began playing there several years ago, I was one of the worst players," he acknowledged. "A combination of tennis and competitive zeal has made me a better player."

"The camaraderie among Glen Park players is praiseworthy," he said. "We structure the court play by skill levels, as we want to be seen as welcoming, not intimidating. Advanced players can still work on technique playing against a less-skilled competitor," he noted. "I can work on my defense and my court angles, which allows me to develop to another level."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Paul Johnson chats about pickleball with Toby Wiley, Recreation and Park supervisor. Photo by Murray Schneider





Paul Johnson discovered pickleball at the Rec Center in Glen Canyon Park.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

On Feb. 25, Johnson momentarily put aside his pickleball paddle and picked up an American flag. “I became an American citizen,” he said. “I studied civics books.”

The U.S. citizenship examination poses a limited number of questions from a pool of 100 possibilities. Johnson answered questions orally at the Federal Building on Sansome Street. “The Immigration Service official asks 10 questions during an interview, and you are expected to answer six correctly,” he explained.

Johnson aced the examination, albeit with a moment of panic. “The examiner asked who was president during the First World War,” he said. (It was Woodrow Wilson.) “I took a stab and got it right.”

In normal times, the naturalization ceremony occurs a while after the test so that new citizens’ friends

and families can attend. Because of Covid restrictions, though, Johnson’s swearing-in took place in the Federal Building, without onlookers.

“I’d guess there were 12 of us raising our right hands that day from all over the world and representing many different ethnicities. When the ceremony was over, I was handed an American flag and I became a bit emotional!”

“I felt extremely proud the moment I became an American,” he said. “I moved to the U.S. in 2013 to found Lemonaid Health, which makes health care more affordable and accessible. Over the past seven years, Glen Park and California have become my home, and my life has been built around the fantastic community in San Francisco.”

“Being a citizen solidifies my time here,” Johnson said, “emotionally making me feel like this truly is my home and that I belong.” ♦

# Is your home prepared for spring?

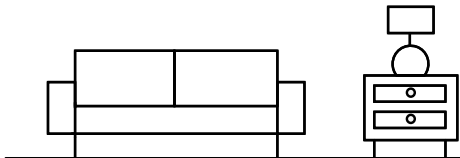
COMPASS

## 2021 Spring Cleaning Checklist

### 1. Wipe Down/Dust

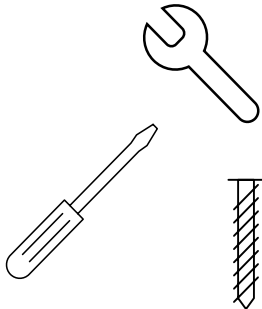


- ☐ Living Room
- ☐ Bedrooms
- ☐ Kitchen
- ☐ Other



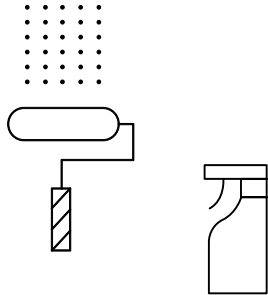
### 2. Vacuum/Mop

- ☐ Living Room
- ☐ Bedrooms
- ☐ Kitchen
- ☐ Other



### 3. Re-Organize & Fix-up

- ☐ Living Room
- ☐ Bedrooms
- ☐ Kitchen
- ☐ Other



### 4. Let Judy Be Your Guide

- ☐ Contact Judy

Is this part of the preparation for selling your house? I can help with Compass Concierge; just ask me how!



**Judy Marocco**  
415.407.2572  
judymarocco@gmail.com  
judymarocco.com  
DRE 01919006



Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. Home must qualify under Compass Concierge guidelines. Subject to additional terms and conditions.



# The Woman Behind Glen Park Strong

**“I** needed a broom,” Madison Hatfield explained. Now 22, Hatfield arrived in the Bay Area in 2016 and began scouting San Francisco neighborhoods for a job when she enrolled at City College of San Francisco. When she paid for the broom at Glen Park Hardware, she asked: “Do you guys need help?” And so, for the past three years, Hatfield has worked 35 hours a week at the Chenery Street store.

After completing her courses at City College she transferred to the Academy of Art University. In 2022 she hopes to finish her final year, majoring in advertising and minoring in graphic design.

Shoppers have become familiar with Hatfield’s graphic work during the pandemic: It’s on display in windows along Chenery and Diamond streets in the stand-out sign she designed that proclaims GLEN PARK STRONG. The Glen Park Merchants Association distributed them.

Hatfield’s sign drew inspiration from an iconic New York City counterpart. While the Big Apple sign, I LOVE NY,

has one heart, hers boasts three.

“We were all so scared a year ago,” she said this spring. “I wanted to design an encouraging reminder that we have a strong community, that we could survive this crisis, and that it will pass.”

Hatfield was born in Eastern Oregon and raised in the town of Baker City, latest population 9,828—“the Queen City of the Inland Empire,” where ranching, mining and timber support the local economy. The Oregon she grew up in couldn’t be more different than Glen Park, said Hatfield, who’s a descendant of Devil Anse Hatfield of the famous Hatfield-McCoy feud in West Virginia.

She attended a high school that topped at 400 students, and knew early on that she wanted to study art. In high school she sold bicycle pumps, tire tube repair kits, duct tape and Allen wrench sets at her parents’ bike shop.

“I’ve been working in retail since I was 14,” she said. “I really love small businesses that have a sense of community and where you get to know familiar faces.”

That’s what she told Glen Park Hardware management when she was called for an interview. “Working in a hardware store is really no different than graphic design,” she said. “I’m a problem solver for customers, assisting them in simplifying their lives. It’s the same with graphic design. How will I help clients market themselves with web design, logos, branding, messaging and social media content creation?”

She started out living on Rotteck Street, just across I-280 from Glen Park, but has since moved out to the Sunset District. “I hop the N-Judah, then transfer to the 44 O’Shaughnessy,” she said. “For me, a small-town girl, it’s a dream come true. It’s exciting to think I can make a name for myself, a small fish in a big pond.”

Anyone familiar with Glen Park, though, knows that our local pond isn’t all that deep, and the small-town, friendly aura that Hatfield brings to it fits well with the neighborhood’s village ambiance.

“Glen Park is so inclusive,” she said, “and to all walks of life. I’ve made friends, all extraordinary people.”

“There are these three elderly guys

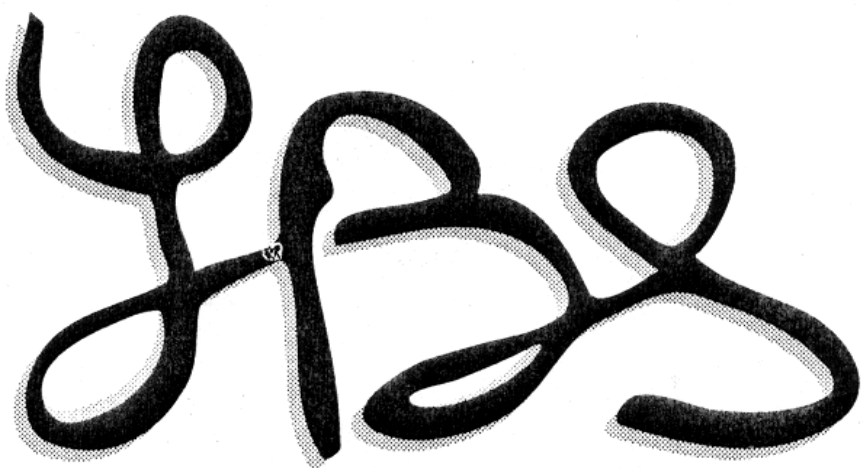
who come to Higher Grounds regularly,” she continued. “I overhear them gabbing about light bulbs, history and politics.”

She loves her job at the hardware store, which has been accommodating and flexible, allowing her to work around her class schedule. Those classes include visual design, visual communication, language arts and all sorts of computer skills necessary to navigate the digital age.

She routinely spends two hours a day glued to her laptop, perfecting all elements of design that include balance, symmetry, line, even gaining expertise in how to lay out a newspaper.

And she’s watched Glen Park slowly coming back to life, as more San Franciscans are vaccinated after a year-long hiatus. “The neighborhood’s wide awake,” Hatfield said. Her lunch break over, she handed in her Higher Grounds glass mug, then ordered a bagel to go before returning to work in a hardware store that is always fully stocked and presents its merchandise on manicured shelves.

Before graduation she hopes to land an internship in an advertising agency, then a job. Like Glen Park Hardware, any business that has the good sense to hire Madison Hatfield will be a lot stronger for it—GLEN PARK STRONG. ♦



**Lucy B. Stephenson**  
C e r t i f i e d P u b l i c A c c o u n t a n t

**(415) 586 • 5600**

FAX **(415) 586 • 2152**

**Individuals • Corporations • Partnerships**  
964 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131

By appointment only



Madison Hatfield in front of Glen Park Hardware., with her Glen Park Strong sign above her.  
Photo by Murray Schneider



## ❖ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ❖



The "1900 Diamond" proposal would replace these trees and hillside on Diamond Street.

Photo courtesy of Steve Chaffin

**A** proposed development of four single-family homes and 20 townhouses, planned for the steep hillside at the corner of 5367 Diamond Heights Blvd. and Diamond Street, is causing quite a stir. People have trouble visualizing the location, wondering: Isn't that hillside unbuildable?

Isn't it City open space? Won't it all be affordable housing, since it is located next to Vista Del Monte Affordable Housing, owned by the Cesar Chavez Foundation?

Housing advocates strongly support the proposed units, which are planned to sell for between \$2 million and \$5 million. In contrast, some residents in the neighborhood are concerned about the impact of such a large development. They do not want to lose the entire view from Diamond Heights Boulevard, lose 27 healthy Monterey cypress trees and lose the open space that is a unique feature of Diamond Heights and contributes to the neighborhood's quality of life.

With so many differing opinions, the Diamond Heights Community Association (DHCA) intends to provide information to the public. It has invited a representative of Emerald Fund, Marc Babsin, to several virtual community meetings to explain the proposal and answer questions. To present the anti-development side, the DHCA has scheduled a community Zoom meeting with Steve Chaffin on April 22 at 7 p.m. Chaffin represents a group of neighbors who

want the development to be more in scale and character with the neighborhood, while preserving the Monterey cypresses, views and open space. (Check the DHCA website, dhcasf.org, for Babsin's March 4 slide presentation and meeting recording, as well as Chaffin's slide presentation with concerns about the proposed development.

Diamond Heights is eagerly awaiting the opening day of George Christopher Playground, much of which has been closed for construction since November 2019. Already in place are the new play structures for younger and older children, an imagination garden, tables and chairs for picnics, lovely landscaping, new fencing around the baseball field, benches, an ADA-compliant public bathroom, a newly installed pathway from Duncan Street to the park, and the relocation of three historic play structures. A big thanks to Brynna McNulty of Friends of Christopher Park for her involvement in community input and for leading the effort to retain the play structures.

Still to come are resurfacing of the tennis court, and installation of new lights for nighttime tennis. Many thanks to the SF Recreation and Park Department staff for the planning, construction and allocation of additional funding with the help of District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. ❖

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

## Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church

A Joyful Community of the Spirit

### Holy Week and Easter Interactive Online Worship



**Palm Sunday, March 28**  
8 am & 10 am

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
in Holy Week, March 29, 30, 31**  
Evening Prayer at 7 pm

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**  
Liturgy at 7 pm

**Good Friday, April 2**  
Prayer & Meditation, Noon to 3 pm  
Stay as long or as little as you like  
Good Friday Liturgy at 7 pm

**Saturday, April 3**  
Great Vigil of Easter at 7 pm

### Easter Sunday, April 4

Feast of the Resurrection at 8 am & 10 am

**For connection information:**  
email: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org)

### Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church

101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, 94131

Phone: 415.285.9540

[www.staidansf.org](http://www.staidansf.org)



GLEN PARK: SAN FRANCISCO'S HIDDEN GEM.  
NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE!



## ❖ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ❖

**H**ow a few months can change things. We have a new administration in the White House, coronavirus vaccines are getting into the arms of people all over the world, the stock market is hitting all-time highs as of this writing, and the Real Estate market has never been hotter.

by Marc Dickow I've been in this business my whole life, and I've never seen a more competitive or active market. We are seeing 20 to 40 offers on single-family homes and sales prices that are as much as 50 percent over asking. The soft condominium market of 2020 seems to be over; now condos are back to getting multiple offers in most areas of the city. This has all happened in the past few weeks.

The lack of inventory all over the Bay Area, coupled with historically low interest rates, is certainly fueling the market. I also think the light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel is helping. But don't discount the renewed hope that the Biden administration has given our country.

Let's look at sales in Glen Park over the past few months. Between Nov. 21, 2020, and March 13, 2021, 32 homes were sold in Glen Park—a 50 percent increase from the previous same period. The median sale price for a single-family home was \$1,800,000. The median list price was \$1,598,000. The average over-bid was about 9 percent over the asking price. The median price per square foot was \$970. The average days on market was 24. As I write this, 10 homes are for sale in Glen Park, which is 40 percent lower than last year at this time.

The median sales price at the end of 2020 in Glen Park was \$1,850,000. The median sales price at the end of 2019 was \$1,850,000. Which means the pandemic didn't hurt our home values at all! The number of homes sold here in 2020 was 188, compared with 209 in 2019. Not bad considering we could do hardly any business in March and April when the initial lockdown started. All in all, the market weathered the year well.

What about the rental market across the city? As a whole, San Francisco has seen a pretty significant drop in rental prices, between 18 to 24 percent from 2019 prices. However, that drop is mostly concentrated in certain areas of the city: South of Market, South Beach and Downtown. Rental prices in Glen Park haven't seen such a significant drop. For example, the median price for a two-bedroom rental here is

### Single-Family Homes

ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
2712 Diamond St.	11/23/20	97	\$2,199,000	\$2,150,000	97.77%
27 Whitney St.	11/30/20	28	\$2,300,000	\$2,330,000	101.30%
1721 Sanchez St.	12/1/20	34	\$1,995,000	\$2,200,000	110.28%
95 Melrose Ave.	12/4/20	30	\$1,598,000	\$1,610,000	100.75%
100 Farnum St.	12/8/20	35	\$1,195,000	\$1,230,000	102.93%
37 Arbor St.	12/8/20	45	\$1,637,000	\$1,550,000	94.69%
3001 Castro St.	12/10/20	65	\$2,050,000	\$2,000,000	97.56%
45 Bemis St.	12/17/20	50	\$1,299,000	\$1,450,000	111.62%
122 Sussex St.	12/17/20	53	\$2,895,000	\$2,750,000	94.99%
351 Surrey St.	12/22/20	5	\$995,000	\$1,300,000	130.65%
50 Monterey Blvd.	12/23/20	35	\$979,000	\$990,000	101.12%
535 Laidley St.	12/24/20	78	\$1,875,000	\$1,875,000	100.00%
119 Stillings St.	1/21/21	62	\$1,490,000	\$1,460,000	97.99%
60 Surrey St.	2/1/21	1	\$1,595,000	\$2,000,000	125.39%
2555 Diamond St.	2/1/21	9	\$1,295,000	\$1,425,000	110.04%
924 Chenery St.	2/3/21	8	\$1,295,000	\$1,511,924	116.75%
10 Mercato Ct.	2/8/21	7	\$1,975,000	\$2,425,000	122.78%
165 Moffitt St.	2/11/21	86	\$895,000	\$905,000	101.12%
61 Elk St.	2/18/21	13	\$1,300,000	\$1,452,000	111.69%
174 Arbor St.	2/18/21	2	\$1,300,000	\$1,510,000	116.15%
230 Whitney St.	2/24/21	121	\$2,215,000	\$2,140,000	96.61%
187 Brompton Ave.	2/25/21	6	\$2,495,000	\$2,500,000	100.20%
506 Chenery St.	2/25/21	10	\$1,495,000	\$1,800,000	120.40%
1760 Dolores St.	3/4/21	39	\$2,125,000	\$2,010,000	94.59%
157 Laidley St.	3/5/21	11	\$2,195,000	\$2,500,000	113.90%
1730 Sanchez St.	3/9/21	0	\$4,350,000	\$4,350,000	100.00%
191 Randall St.	3/12/21	7	\$1,895,000	\$2,200,000	116.09%

### Condominiums/Multi Unit Buildings

ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
240-A Chenery St.- Condo	11/25/20	0	\$2,450,000	\$2,410,000	98.37%
169-171 Randall St. - 2-Unit	12/9/20	41	\$2,295,000	\$2,355,000	102.61%
235 Whitney St. - Condo	1/15/21	133	\$1,595,000	\$1,550,000	97.18%

DOM - Days on market

SP/LP - % over or under list price

actually up 2 percent from last year, at \$3,723 a month. Three-bedroom rentals are down slightly to \$4,900 a month. There was a drop in one-bedroom rentals, about 18 percent to \$2,500 a month. (These numbers come from the website Zumper.com).

There has also been a lot of talk about the mass exodus from the city. The current activity in the real estate market does not support such claims at all. While San Francisco did see a drop in residents from March 2020 to February 2021 of about 10 percent, many of those surveyed said that it was temporary and that they would be back. It seems irresponsible to me to make such broad claims of people

fleeing the city while the pandemic is going on.

All cities experience ebbs and flows of residents, and it's completely normal. But a global pandemic is not normal, and those in the media should be much more cautious about what they say during this time. Does our city have problems? Of course we do—like all major cities. Can we do better at dealing with the issues? Yes, I know we can. But that's a topic for another day.

I hope that you all have a wonderful spring and that by our next edition of the *Glen Park News*, a majority of you will be vaccinated. It's definitely a brighter year already. As the city continues to relax Covid protocols, please

continue to follow all social distancing rules, including wearing a mask when out of your house. We still have a ways to go.

I'm pleased that this is an interactive column answering your questions and writing about topics that are of interest to you as a reader. Send any questions or topic requests to me at [marc@opni.com](mailto:marc@opni.com). ❖

*Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident, is the Broker/Owner at Core7 Real Estate. He is also the immediate past president of the San Francisco Association of Realtors. He can be reached at [marc@opni.com](mailto:marc@opni.com), or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is [www.altrockrealtor.com](http://www.altrockrealtor.com).*