

FEB - MAR 2024



# DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

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**Tuesday, February 13**

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

## DTNA PUBLIC MEETING

Harvey Milk Center for  
Recreational Arts

### MEETING AGENDA

- Meet Your Neighbors! Social time begins at 6:30, formal meeting at 7:00.
- Vision 2030 – Slow Noe, Slow Steiner, Wiggle Fest, Bulb-out repairs, and Tree Planting – Discover how you can get involved!
- Noise Mitigation at CPMC Davies – Current status and next steps.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Triangle Art Mart** - First Sunday of every month, 11-5 pm, Noe and Market.

**Castro Art Walk** - First Friday of every month, 5-9 pm.

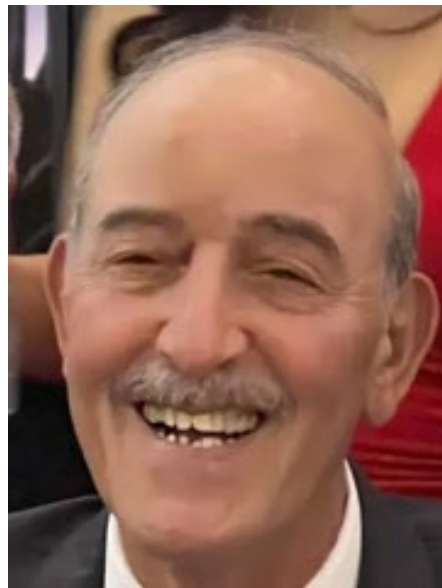
**Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Days** - Second Saturday of every month.

**Friends of Duboce Park Open Meeting** – Tuesday, March 19, 7 pm, Harvey Milk Rec Center, Ballroom. Come meet your FODP Board and learn about park projects, events, and more!

**McKinley School's Dogfest** - Saturday April 27, Duboce Park. Start getting those costumes ready!

Note: For the latest updates on meetings and events, plus opportunities to get involved in neighborhood actions, please visit [dtna.org](http://dtna.org).

## RIP Jake: The Triangle Mourns a Loss



*Jake's warm smile was a fixture of the neighborhood for well over 50 years.*

It is with a heavy heart that DTNA extends its condolences to the family of Jake (Yacoub) Shatara, the proprietor of Noe Valley Market at 15th and Noe. Jake passed away on January 9 after a brief illness. To remember him in happier times you can read our "Neighborhood Gem" article in the August September 2018 issue of the DTNA News, and a shorter version is reprinted below: <https://www.dtna.org/resources/Site/DTNA/pdf/2018dtnanewsletteraug-sep.pdf>

Some neighborhood businesses are such an anchor, so much part of the fabric of the community, that it seems like they must have always been there.

Noe Valley Market at the corner of 15th and Noe has not actually been around forever, but it comes close. Jake Shatara has owned the market since 1974, but it was already called that when he moved to the neighborhood in 1968. Jake's family and other Palestinian Christians were able to come to America as the result of the 1965 Immigration Reform Act, which allowed for family reunification – Jake's uncle and two of his sisters had already left Ramallah and were awaiting him when he arrived. They first lived in an apartment at Noe and Henry, above what was then an ice-cream parlor.

Jake's attended James Lick Middle School and Mission High, and worked at Noe Valley Market steadily from the age of 21 until his death at age 70, nearly 50 years. In that time he took only two one-week vacations – one for his honeymoon (Hawaii) and one cruise (Jamaica and the Caribbean). Jake married his wife Ghada in 1980, and they have 3 kids – Jalil (after his dad, family tradition), Leila, and Ramy, and one grandchild (Jacob, of course).

Jake always projected a kind of familial affection for people from the neighborhood, especially the kids they've seen grow up here. In the end it's the feeling of family that sticks with you, and the adoptive family of Jake and Les is the Triangle as a whole. We love you guys, and we'll miss you Jake.



Celebrating Activist Neighbors and a New Look for Noe Street



Rafael Mandelman represents District 8 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Happy New Year Duboce Triangle Neighbors!

You may have noticed Public Works crews recently working on the sidewalks in the Triangle. This work has been quite a saga for the neighborhood and for our office. A few years ago, we secured funds in the City budget for tree-planting in Duboce Triangle. And then we waited... and waited...and waited. DTNA, concerned neighbors, and my staff continued to inquire after the trees. During that same period, my office and the neighborhood also had been asking for long-delayed and much-needed maintenance work on the sidewalks in the area. Finally, Public Works began work on a combined sidewalk-maintenance and tree-planting project late last year. But within days, we learned that the crews were removing the neighborhood's iconic brickwork and replacing it with concrete. Needless to say, many neighbors were not pleased. Happily, DTNA and our office were able to prevail on Public Works to take a second look at the project, with an eye toward keeping the brickwork. They took that second look, and found that they could replace brick with brick without busting the project's budget. Many thanks to Public Works Director Carla Short and

Government Affairs Manager Ian Schneider for taking the time to get this project right. And many congratulations to DTNA and all the neighbors who weighed in to demand a better project for the neighborhood.

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to sign up for time with me at our regular virtual or in-person office hours, please contact my office at [Mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:Mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org), or by calling (415) 554-6968. For periodic updates on my office's work, please call or email and ask to be added to our newsletter list.

The Duboce Triangle News is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. (EIN 23-7440874)

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Duboce Triangle's Vibe – Catch It!



Frank Tizedes is the President of DTNA. He lives on Noe Street.

By Frank Tizedes

Duboce Triangle stands as a testament to the incredible power of community, where the streets resonate with the joyous sounds of children at play and dogs exchanging friendly barks. The parks and cafés become vibrant meeting grounds where strangers extend warm greetings, weaving the fabric of connections that define this neighborhood.

The simple act of a stranger saying "hello" can transform the tone of a day, adding warmth to chilly rains and fostering a sense of belonging. It's in these small gestures that the true strength of community emerges. Duboce Triangle thrives on relationships, shared time, and a collective commitment to each other and the community as a whole.

The heartbeat of this community lies in the individuals who go above and beyond for the neighborhood. Howard's regular walks to pick up trash, Kaz's dedication to tending sidewalk gardens, Peter's longstanding newsletter deliveries and

the memory of Jake, the beloved owner of Noe Valley Market and a friend to the entire neighborhood, who welcomed everyone with a smile and never missed a treat and kind word to us and our pups - all contribute to the unique charm of Duboce Triangle.

The community is a living tapestry woven from the collective wisdom of those who have come and gone, the dynamic energy of the young and old, and the love shared by neighbors looking out for one another. Duboce Triangle is sustained by the spirit of collaboration, where past and present neighbors worked hand in hand to create this warm, caring community.

As I write and extend gratitude

to the community, I am also extending an invitation for others to join in the communal spirit.

In Duboce Triangle, community is not just a concept; it's a living, breathing entity that continues to evolve and thrive through the efforts and connections of its diverse and dedicated neighbors.



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A Petition for Slow Steiner & Another Wiggle Fest Coming Soon



By Hans Galland and Corbin Muraro, co-chairs of DTNA's Vision 2030 project. Hans lives on Divisadero Street, and Corbin lives on Waller Street. Focused on traffic safety, accessibility, greening and neighborhood identity, DTNA Vision 2030 is a roadmap for community-led projects improving the public realm in the Duboce Triangle.

At the December General Meeting, DTNA hosted Christopher Kidd from San Francisco's Department of Municipal Transportation (SFMTA) to share a draft of their Active Communities Plan for community feedback. The San Francisco Active Communities Plan (ACP) is a roadmap for biking and rolling ("active transportation") infrastructure and policy improvements over the next ten to fifteen years. Included in the draft plans for Duboce Triangle was the possibility of a Slow Wiggle, which could provide a safer corridor across the city for the thousands that bike, walk, or roll along the corridor on a daily

basis. Community members in attendance spoke in support of this possibility, and their sentiment reflected the results of several years of community engagement that DTNA's Vision 2030 initiative (formerly Slow Triangle) has helped facilitate. A part of The Wiggle, Steiner St. between Duboce Ave. and Waller St. is a hectic stretch of Duboce Triangle, with regular conflict between bikes, cars, and pedestrians. While crossing the street just a few months ago, our neighbor Michael was hit in his wheelchair by a car speeding down Steiner and turning up

Duboce Ave. Our neighborhood is home to four affordable senior housing buildings within two blocks of Steiner. Many of their residents have expressed fear over fast-moving cars and unsafe street crossings. Turning the stretch of Steiner St. between Duboce Ave. and Waller St. into a Slow Street could serve as a first step towards a Slow Wiggle, while providing a safer street for everyone — particularly those who are most vulnerable. Consequently, the Vision 2030 team is starting to circulate a petition to gather support for adding this stretch of Steiner to

SFMTA's Slow Streets Program. Also, on the heels of a successful inaugural Wiggle Fest last October, the Vision 2030 team is starting to plan a second Wiggle Fest on Steiner St. between Duboce and Hermann for this spring.

Would you like to get involved in organizing the next Wiggle Fest, or would you like to help organize around towards a Slow Steiner? Email the Vision 2030 team at [vision2030@dtna.org](mailto:vision2030@dtna.org). Sign the Slow Steiner petition at [slowsteiner.com](http://slowsteiner.com).



By Erik Honda

To inaugurate the New Year of 2024 Patria Brown's lovely family created this lovely box on Noe Street to showcase Patria's poems, and to give all passers-by on Noe an opportunity to engage in some deep reflection and nature appreciation. When I passed by the poem "Serenity" was busy provoking philosophical questions about the origins of spirituality in land and ocean, and (this is San Francisco folks!) on the significance of the war in Ukraine. Keep 'em coming Patria, and here's wishing everyone deep reading, deep thinking, and deep appreciation of thoughtful and artistic neighbors.



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Women and Girls in Sports – Celebrating Women's History Month



Leela is a DTNA News columnist and helps run the DTNA Instagram. She moved to the neighborhood earlier this year!

By Leela Sarukkai

As National Women in Sports Day approaches I wanted to talk with Katie, a 2020 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials Qualifier and the 2023 US Masters 10-Mile Champion, about her experience with running. She is also a Registered Dietitian, a

certified Diabetes Educator, and a Sports Nutritionist who works at UCSF's Madison Clinic for Pediatric Diabetes and RunSafe Clinic. Katie, her husband Patrick and her dog Mali, have lived in the Triangle for the past five years and feel at home in this vibrant neighborhood. Katie was initially drawn to the Triangle due to its proximity to the Panhandle and Golden Gate Park, but she has stayed here for the community she has developed; in Katie's words, "now that we're here, we can't ever leave the neighborhood!"

Running has been a part of Katie's life since middle school where she started running to give her an edge in team sports. In college, she played NCAA Division 1 field hockey, and only post college did Katie take up running competitively. A friend suggested she sign up for a race

in Central Park and she has been hooked ever since, finding that the sport provided both a competitive outlet and a way to build community.

The last six years have been the best of her running career. She has built confidence in herself as an athlete and has found a community through joining the Impala Racing Team, an all women racing team here in San Francisco: "You do it with other people and it doesn't feel as hard."

Katie tells me that "running, and sports in general, is such a great way to meet people when you move." San Francisco has a huge running community and Katie loves the diversity of the women she has been able to meet.

For those of you who are considering starting to run, In Katie's opinion running is a great sport to try when you feel like you want to move your body, improve your health, or build community. She suggests starting with something small and setting achievable goals – it is ok to feel sore, don't feel discouraged! She also suggests finding different destinations (say your



Katie is a 2020 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials Qualifier and has lived in the Triangle for the past five years.

favorite coffee shop or bakery) to end your runs at, creating something to look forward to after your workout.

We wrapped up our conversation on a light note. When I asked her what she would call her favorite place in the Triangle, she had a great answer - "It's cheesy to say but Duboce Park! But specifically, the hill overlooking the park which is really serene and I enjoy watching the dogs!"



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# Community Connections at McKinley Elementary



Kelly lives on Noe Street with her family, and her cat, David Bowie. She's currently serving as VP of Communications on the McKinley PTA, and her son is a third grader at McKinley.

By Kelly Gillease

McKinley is back in session after a restful winter break! There are some important, and fun, events coming up in the second half of the year.

In December, McKinley students partnered with the Curry

Senior Center to spread some holiday cheer. Classes created cards, participated in the Adopt-A-Senior gift program, and the second grade created toiletry bags. It's great to have opportunities for children to give back to their community and to start the habits of a lifetime!

As we continue to support our mission and vision of building a strong, inclusive community of belonging, McKinley students participated in a school-wide project responding to the prompt of "I feel included when..." The younger grades created pictures with one to two sentences in explanation, while the upper grades created colorful post-its with more sophisticated language. All of the results are displayed in the school lobby for students and visitors alike to enjoy.

Our beloved annual read-a-thon kicks off in February. Students collect pledges for



Rocket Rainbow Monster by Knox Moberg

reading every day for a month. This is the main fundraiser for our library, the literal heart of the McKinley building, and the figurative heart of our community. The funds raised go towards the purchase of engaging and thought-provoking books, as well supporting literacy programs at McKinley. Sponsoring one of your little neighbors is a great way to contribute to

McKinley and encourage a life-long love of reading!

Lastly, DogFest planning is already underway! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27th with more information to come. If you're interested in volunteer opportunities for DogFest you can contact the PTA at [pta@mckinleyschool.org](mailto:pta@mckinleyschool.org).

## Website/Membership Tips for dtna.org

Bob Bush, DTNA Vice President, Web Manager  
Paige Rausser Grey, DTNA Board Member, Membership Manager

### Membership Renewals

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership via the dtna.org website. Members can still renew by check mailed to: DTNA, Attn. Treasurer, 2261 Market St., PMB 301, San Francisco, CA 94114.

### Changing Membership Level Online

When changing membership

payment level after a renewal notice invoice has been sent, please contact [membership manager](#) before making any payment so that the initial renewal invoice can be voided. Otherwise, the system with charge the renewing credit card for the total amount of both invoices. This is not an issue if the change is made prior to receiving a renewal notice.

### DTNA Website Search

The search engine at the bottom of each webpage has been enhanced by embedding Google Search that searches all

public content, including PDFs. Newsletters are now searchable.

### Member Messaging

The online Membership Directory allows member names to be viewable – only names (no other identifying information) and only viewable by other active members when logged in. Members can increase the information viewable to other members (phone, email, address), as well as make all of their information private (no name or other listing) by changing their privacy settings (see [FAQs on dtna.org](#)). This allows ac-

tive members to message other members and build community. Please note that while you can email another member through the dtna.org website Directory, the recipient's email address remains private and is not seen by the sender.

### Membership Bundles

Household, Patron, Angel and Superstar membership levels are bundle memberships that allow a second household member 13 years or older to be added as a voting member with all mem-

Continues on page 8

# Family and Fun on Scott Street and at McKinley School: An Interview with Jack



Jack is in first grade at McKinley Elementary. Jack's family has lived on Scott Street since the 1960s. His interview will continue in the April issue, so keep an eye out for Jack and his wisdom.

**What is one thing you like about growing up in Duboce Triangle?** I really like Duboce Playground because it's very close to my house and I see my friends and neighbors all the time at the park and we can play.

**I heard your family has a cool history in your house. How long has your family lived in your house?** My family has lived in our house on Scott Street for a long time. My Grandma (Shotsy) bought the house in the 60s. My mom grew up in the house with her four siblings. They also played at Duboce Park and went to Comix and GameStop!

**What are some of your favorite memories of or favorite things to do with your neighbors?** I have a lot of great neighbors on Lloyd Street. I like running up the street to play at my friend's house. I also like visiting my neighbors Rosie and Michael because they always

have treats like chocolates and have fun dogs.

**When you started kindergarten at McKinley school what were some things that you remember noticing about it?** I really liked my kindergarten teacher Ms. Tran because she is so nice and she taught me how to write. McKinley has good teachers that are really nice. Mr. Collins is funny and tells great jokes, sometimes he'll pretend to steal our food, that makes us laugh.

**Now that you are a first grader at McKinley, what are some of your favorite things about your school and school community?** At McKinley you

can meet a lot of great friends and play fun games like tag and lava monster. We do a lot of different things at school. My favorite is art with Ms. Carry. I liked when we did paper weaving, it looked good and if you had extra time you could make patterns. We also go to the library with Ms. Cathy and in first grade we get to bring a book home! My favorite is Cat Kid Comic Club, a book about Legos, or a spooky book. My first grade teacher Ms. Manning is really nice and she loves us (maybe even as much as her pug, Osso). Ms. Manning reads funny books like the Pigeon books and Mercy Watson. She's taught me math, spelling, and I'm getting really good at reading because of Ms. Manning.



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## Park Station Makes Incremental Improvement to Traffic Enforcement in the Triangle



Erik Honda serves on DTNA's Vision 2030 public realm enhancement committee, and is the editor of the DTNA News.

by Erik Honda

Exposés published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* last year documented a collapse of traffic enforcement on the part of the SFPD post-pandemic, and our District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman was energized to act when an analysis revealed that, despite a 2014 pledge to focus on key violations that endanger pedestrians, the department had in fact dramatically scaled back enforcement of speeding, running red lights and stop signs, and not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks or during left turns. The city's

pledge (their ten-year "Vision Zero" plan) was to eliminate traffic fatalities by this year (2024) but we have made little progress - most years since 2014 the numbers have been higher than the 31 folks who died in 2014, and the 25 people who were killed in 2023 is not that many fewer than when the pledge was made, and a long way from Zero. As Mandelman put it in a statement issued by his office "The city's failure to make good on Vision Zero over the last decade is closely linked to the steep decline in traffic enforcement."

That applies in our neighborhood as well. In Duboce Triangle traffic enforcement had collapsed entirely post-pandemic, going from 88 citations of drivers in the Triangle in 2020 to only 7 in 2022. Even 88 citations was somewhat anemic - it represents about one every four days, or less than 2 per week. We thought SFPD could do better, so last spring we met with Park Station Captain Jack Hart who, recognizing an area of growth for his team, committed to increasing and documenting traffic enforcement in the Triangle, and there has been some progress - citations were back up to 51 in 2023.



One ticket issued by officers from Park Station involved a citizen who thought the footpaths of Duboce Park were an appropriate place for driving.

In another area of improvement, prior to 2023 about half of the citations were issued for what racial justice advocates call "driving while black" tickets like "object on mirror" or not having both front and back license plates. In January of 2023 the San Francisco Police Commission voted to ban those sorts of stops both in order to increase racial justice, and in hopes of getting the department to focus on its Vision Zero pledge. As part of our commitment to racial justice DTNA had also asked Captain Hart to ask his officers to enforce traf-

fic laws only, and avoid targeting anyone based on race, and there seems to have been some progress on that front as well. Captain Hart tells us unequivocally that "pretext stops for the purpose of racial profiling is illegal, unethical, amoral, and prohibited—we have no tolerance for that behavior."

We are still waiting for data on the race and residence of drivers ticketed, but we'll keep you posted as the metrics come in, so stay safe, and stay tuned.

## Website Tips, continued

Continued from page 6

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Please reach out to [membership@dtna.org](mailto:membership@dtna.org) with any questions or concerns.



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## DTNA General Meeting Considers Transportation Improvement Plans

by Erik Honda

After a fun community social with delicious food and tasty drink, a large and engaged crowd and supervisor Rafael Mandelman turned out for our December General Meeting at Harvey Milk Community Center. We opened with a presentation from the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, who have been working to revamp this important community meeting space at Castro and Market since 2016. Andrea Aiello of the Castro Community Benefits District and Taylor Jordan of FHMP thanked DTNA for our letter of support for the planned upgrades, which have cleared all city approvals and are just waiting for fund-

infrastructure in the neighborhood. The Active Communities Plans is a celebration of the non-car ways people roll around the city - biking, walking, in wheelchairs and electric scooters. The city has a plan to add 82,000 new residents in the next 10 years, but not 82,000 new cars. The plan aims to support small businesses and neighborhood commercial corridors, and support students getting to school (50% of elementary students live within one mile of their school.). They are focused on biking, rolling, and scooting - everything that can legally use a bike lane, and the citywide plan for these modes has not been updated since 2009.



The redesigned park incorporates art objects and civil rights history.

ing to be implemented. Check out the plans at <https://www.harveymilkplaza.org/vision> and call your local officials, especially Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, who has already secured some federal funding but could potentially get more, to support the project.

The main presentation was by Chris Kidd of the San Francisco Department of Public Works' Active Communities Plan, which fits right in with DTNA's Vision 2030 plan to improve pedestrian safety and enhance walkability and green

San Francisco already has 45 miles of protected bike lane, and 10% of SF residents are using some form of rolling device - we have the highest bike ride share of any city in the US. Fatalities for bicyclists have gone down, but not enough - the aim is for a further 50% reduction in bike collisions. Mr. Kidd showed us the draft map, which has paths (off-street dedicated to peds and bikes), promenades like JFK Drive, protected bike lanes, and shared lanes, plus a new concept - school streets. Mr. Kidd says we have lots of high-quality network in our neighborhood,



The redesigned plaza would include a speaker's dais.

like a section of the famous crosstown route The Wiggle, but adds that much of it is not exactly connected. They want to connect Duboce Triangle to the rest of the city, via Sanchez (working around issues with the fire station) and Noe (including safe ways to move folks through Duboce Park). Input and feedback starts in 2024, you can take the survey at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7305066/Active-Communities-Plan-Phase-2-Survey>

Neighborhood residents seemed enthusiastic about the plan, and were eager to support it. They asked a lot of wonky and thoughtful questions, then everyone descended on the map to give input. Make sure yours goes in too!

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## Please Don't Park on the Sidewalk – Beautify It Instead...

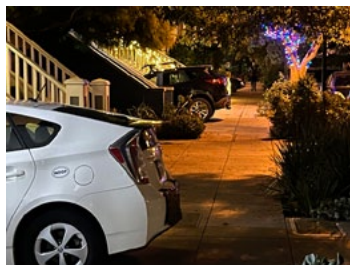
By Erik Honda

During the pandemic our neighborhood was blissfully free of sidewalk parking, as with extra time in their day and fewer hectic commutes neighbors either garaged their vehicles or took the time to find a street parking space. Unfortunately post-pandemic sidewalk parking seems to be ticking up again.

On Noe Street the generous

bulb-outs and street trees at each corner are the result of community activism in the 1970s, and since then Noe neighbors have not only maintained but enhanced the city infrastructure by adding clusters of potted plant gardens, benches, street sculpture, and architecturally enhanced tree wells. All that is currently being given a city makeover, and drivers have been warned not to park on the bulb-outs.

But let's remember that everywhere in the Triangle we have already devoted a large portion of the public right of way to cars, leaving not much space for all other modes of transport – scooters, bikes, wheelchairs, and yes, pedestrians. We have one of the highest walk scores of any neighborhood in the country, and many residents don't own a vehicle. So for those who do, let's keep the cars on the spaces designed for them (streets and garages) and leave



*Sidewalk parking on Pierce Street, evening.*

the sidewalks for the rest of us. Thank you!

## Historic Photo

By Rose Linke

I'm not sure about you, but during these winter months, when our neighborhood farmers' market closes for the season, I sure miss it. It isn't just the convenient access to farm fresh produce, it's also the convivial feeling of familiar faces, and the chance to run into friends and longtime neighbors. The "off" season ensures that I never take it for granted. Though these neighborhood farmers' markets have become commonplace, they were not always part of life in the City. The history of our farmers' markets dates back to WWII-era scarcity, which made for difficult economic realities for growers in the rural regions of the greater Bay Area. In 1943, farmers in Novato, Sonoma, and Santa Clara counties were experiencing bumper crops of pears and apples, but with gas rations and other changes to the wartime food system, they had limited outlets for distribution, and fruit was rotting on the ground. Farmers were lucky to get 4¢ a pound, if they



*Duboce Farmers' Market, August 2, 1947*

*Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library*

could find a wholesale buyer. Meanwhile, City dwellers were desperate for fresh fruit, which was going for 22¢ a pound. What if farmers could sell their fruit directly to City residents? A group of civic-minded citizens worked diligently to make this idea a reality, and a vacant one-acre lot on Market St.

owned by the funeral home next door (now FedEx) was offered by the morticians free of charge. 50,000 San Franciscans attended the first Saturday of the market. But this was only the beginning of the story. Though public opinion was in favor of the idea 10-to-1, it took several years of organizing against existing

power structures—wholesale produce merchants and retail grocers—to formalize farmers' markets in San Francisco. A good reminder that, with a little determination, a small group of citizens can change their neighborhood, and their City, for decades to come.

## Micro- Litter: You Can't Un-See It Neighborhood Gem: Copas



*Kevin hard at work filling a large bag with tiny items.*

By Kevin Shine

*Kevin has lived on Noe Street since 2003, and is a gardener at the Noe Beaver Community Garden.*

I was on vacation with a friend and pointed out the abundance of "micro-litter" on the beach. She had never heard the term before. Micro-litter is the plastic ring around the soda bottle, or the ripped corner of a Skittles wrapper, or the plastic wrapping of a plastic straw. This is the kind of litter that ends up in our storm drains, eventually to our oceans, and

can harm sea life. Once you hear the term, you won't be able to un-see the micro-litter around our beloved city.

My first neighborhood cleanup with Refuse Refuse was in the Western Addition (I think they called it Lower Fillmore). It was wonderful to pick up litter and connect socially with other like-minded, civic-conscious San Franciscans that were willing to spend an hour picking up trash. After my third weekend in a row cleaning up that neighborhood, I noticed that it was making a difference, and the volume of trash was decreasing. I was hooked and I joined cleanups in other neighborhoods.

Beginning in December, with the support of Vince Yuen at Refuse Refuse and DTNA, I started co-hosting (with Duboce Triangle resident Andrew Carter) new monthly cleanups in Duboce Triangle on the 1st Sunday of every month at noon. We'd love to see you there to help keep our city beautiful and litter-free. You can sign up on the website link or just show up: <https://refuserefusesf.org/cleanups>

See you on the streets!



*Esther is an SFUSD teacher and amateur food critic. She has lived with her family and housemates on Henry Street since 1992.*

By Esther Honda

If you haven't tried eating at the latest incarnation of 2223 Market Street, it's time! Copas California Style Mexican Eatery serves up Tijuana-style tacos and more by Chef Julio Aguilera. You'll know from the moment that you walk in that it's not your standard taqueria. Copas has a large bar on one side offering craft cocktails and a range of draft beers, and a comfortable dining room with slick wooden booths and tables and vibrant artwork. The aroma emanating from the kitchen at the back will assure you that you've come to a gem of a neighborhood spot.

You'll start off with a sample of housemade pickled vegetables and salsas, then be sure to try one or more of their tasty starters – salads are bright and seasonal, while a very generous portion of rich guacamole is served with chips of course, but where else but San Francisco will you also get a slice of lightly toasted levain to smear it on? Delicious. Be sure to leave room for a flavorful and substantial pair of tacos or a burrito with your choice of filling. *SF Chronicle* reviewer Cesar Hernandez says "smoky asada is king here" and puts Copas on the list of 25 Best Restaurants in the Bay. I'm partial to the fish tacos myself, which are impossibly crispy and light, topped with just the right amount of dressing and served on hand-pressed tortillas. And even non-vegetarians will enjoy the brussel sprout and peanut salsa macha tacos. A smash burger and other *platos fuertes* plus desserts are on offer, but I've never made it that far down the menu.

Service is warm and attentive and includes an 18% gratuity. Prices are very fair and the menu varied enough that I've eaten there more than once in one week. Copas is definitely an inviting neighborhood gem, and just the right place for a convivial meet up.

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