

HAIGHT STREET VOICE

YEAR 1 #1

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There is often a feeling of belonging somehow as you walk down the streets here in the Haight-Ashbury, a sense of connection to an energy still lingering from the light that lit the '60s -- much of which slipped over to the dark side for a spell. But now, here in 2017, economic and political uncertainties and a radical need to take care of our planet have inspired a newfound rumbling of community, an awakening within people, a pressing need for everyone to truly embrace our freedom of individuality in today's divided world.

Many of the old structures are crumbling, or already have. This paradigm shift is inspiring a radical need to follow our own path, discover clarity and vision -- a devotion to truth. Much like Dorothy in the Wizard or Oz meets Alice down the Rabbit Hole, we're being summoned by a dream, a calling to move from black and white into color toward a rainbow of freaks, friends and family all over the world. We are (hopefully) coming to the realization that there really *is* no place like Home -- no matter where you are on this beautiful planet of ours.

Welcome!



photo: Steve Brown

Jerry Garcia on Haight Street, March 3, 1968, "Goin' to work."

As LSD guru Timothy Leary once told our managing editor in the late '80s:

"Intelligence is the ability to see the relationship between things".

Indeed, here at the *Haight Street Voice*, we do believe that our intellectual (r)evolution is about the ability to see the relationship between things, and doing everything we can to strengthen and nurture our relationships to everything -- and everyone. Community is more important today than possibly ever in the history of this country, let alone our global community. This reality is why this magazine got born. If there were ever a time when we would have cosmic permission and poetic license to deliver our stories -- it's now.

It is our hope to give you local attention with a global perspective, a voice of the people *for* the people. In "Street Person Spotlight" our friend Stryder kindly suggests that the *Haight Street Voice* is "changing the world -- one page at a time."

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For our premiere print issue, there were so many stories to capture but not enough physical space to share them in their entirety. But never fear, “liquid journalism” is



photo: Jim Marshall, 1976

here! Simply hover your Smart Phone over the QR codes [like the one below] sprinkled throughout the magazine and get flown over to the full version on our web page.



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Journalism Then & Now: Ben Fong-Torres



Long-time music journalist, Ben Fong-Torres, started his career in the '60s, interviewing throngs of soon-to-be famous musicians, and eventually became a staff writer for Rolling Stone magazine and a well-known radio personality here in the Bay Area. We gleaned a few words of wisdom from Ben about journalism -- then & now.

What would you like to see in our new community magazine?

I would like to know what the state of the community is in terms of the people living there, what binds them together, what interests they might have in common, what particular fears they might have, whether it's local issues or

global, and see what semblance there is of what the spirit used to be 50 years ago there, and see if there are sparks of that still around. Whenever I've reported on the Haight, there's talk about gentrification, there's talk about yuppie-ization, there's talk about the stores coming in that are changing the face of the neighborhood. Whenever that happens, there are the pros and the cons, those who want to preserve the historic nature of the neighborhood and not have new retailers coming in. There's always going to be the two sides battling it out. A publication can serve the function of trying to raise the various sides of issues. Let them be aired!

We want to give voice to the people and spirit of this neighborhood today, as well as what it represented in the '60s.

People around the world still have a romantic memory of the Haight, whether they were ever here or not. It was such a phenomenon that it continues to inform people about a certain way of life attempted here. And for those who couldn't do it 50 years ago, or a new generation of kids who wished they could've had their parents' moment of experimentation -- I think they would like to read more about what *did* happen.

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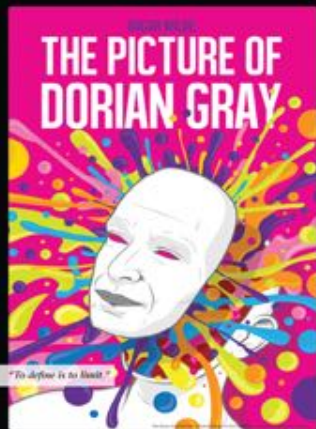
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HAIGHT STREET VOICE

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Bringin' Back the Love on Haight: Sunshine Powers



We recently sat and had a chat with Sunshine Powers. Here's what the "Queen of Haight Street" had to share with us -- sparkles and all.

It's a new year, you have two new stores, this is a new magazine. What's your new vision for, well, everything?

My new business model for 2017 is to focus on peace, love, kindness, rainbows and sparkles -- and my community. And I figure everything else will fall into place after that. We've had a lot happen since we last talked, whether it's my personal life or in what's going on in the world today, and I've really learned that if I focus more on my community and what's right in front of me that I can see true change. And I not only see it in my community but in myself. With everything we have going on in the world, I think we really need to remember to love each other, to be kind, to support each other, to encourage one another to be who makes them happy. And in doing that, they can encourage us to be who we want to be.

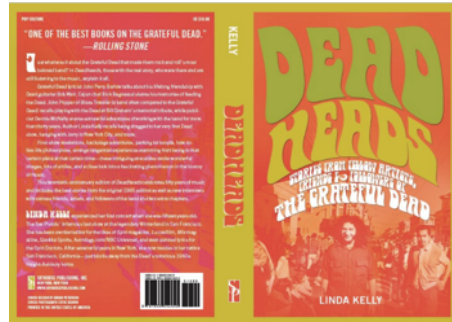
What kind of vision would you like to experience in this magazine?

I feel like the *HSV* is our version of *The Oracle*, and *The Oracle* is what really kept people informed about their community, what was going on, and inspired them to do more. Personally, I'd like the *HSV* to give the Haight-Ashbury a voice. We are a place where magical, historic

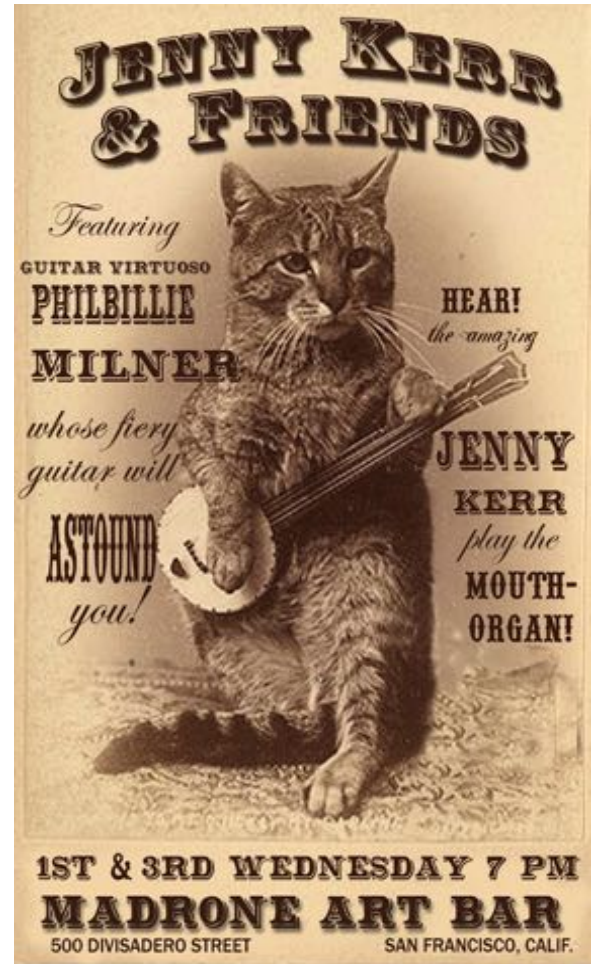
things happened -- and are happening now. What we're doing here is changing our community and to have a platform for other people to acknowledge that, and just for the community to know what's going on. The more people know about Taking It To The Streets, the better it is for everyone, for our community, for the kids, for each other and how we walk down the street. I think the more involved we are with what's right in front of us, the more true change we can actually have.

HSV: On the Flower Power Walking Tours, what is it about the Haight-Ashbury that turns people on?

When you talk about the Haight, it clicks what happened here, what's happening here now. The ideals of peace and love are no longer a Haight-Ashbury hippie thing ... they are a human thing. It has evolved. Where are we gonna take it now? We're about to have 100,000 people come here for the 50th Anniversary of the Summer of Love and we need to set an example for a place that can handle the crowds in a peaceful and loving way, and demonstrate how we work together as a community. The beauty in art, in fashion, in being kind. There is a beauty to it all, and there is a beauty to the Haight-Ashbury.



Come on down to Love on Haight's grand opening on March 3, 2017, 4-7pm, and meet authors Linda Kelly [Deadheads] and Sandy Troy [Captain Trips] while you're at it. Peace!



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Resurrecting Counterculture & Community: HSC



Haight Street Commons is a collective of over 200 hundred members from 12 communities of Upper and Lower Haight, working to revitalize and strengthen our community. Formed last April, HSC focusses on shared learnings between community houses in an effort to make this historic part of SF counterculture visible to the public. Here's a taste of their bright vision -- in their own words.

By technical definition, “commons” refers to the land or resources belonging to or affecting a community. For millennia, societies have used the commons as a means for creating community amongst their people, yet in the modern hustle of the material world, many have lost touch with the integral value the commons provides. We believe it's time to experience this again. This experience and creation comes from and starts with us.

Haight St Commons is our commons, Haight St Commons is your commons, and we'd love to share in this with you. Much of our work aims on building the importance of community and community spaces, thinking outside of the mainframe social structure, and sharing these benefits with the public.

In our midst is a radical arts collective -- the energy and inspiration behind “Haight Free Love”. Each month the communards take to Haight Street to carve a temporary post-capitalist zone. This space sports a free store, a poetry station, advice bureaus, gifted plants and flowers, tea service, music, companionship and a genuine platform to discuss the role of community in our world. Like other Temporary Autonomous Zones, this space hares an idealistic vision and behavioral exploration into alternatives to the social systems that currently dominate our existence. The group has also started a Patreon fund to support projects aimed at supporting systemic and lasting change in the community. If you know of any social impact projects or people that need funding, please get in touch.

In the meantime, know that we are here, and we are working towards a different future -- and we'd love to share in that with you!

*haightstcommons@gmail.com
https://www.patreon.com/haightstcommons
http://haight-st-commons.org/*

And Now a Word From Our Park Station Police Captain

As many of you already know, we are approaching another 4/20 event where thousands of people will descend upon Golden Gate Park for the well-publicized “smoke-out.” This is still a non-sanctioned event that we realize district residents dread, so we want to reassure you we have already started talks to discuss management of this year’s 4/20. On Thursday, January 19, 2017, I convened a meeting that consisted of internal and external law enforcement partners.

As the Commanding Officer of the Park district, my number-one priority is the public safety of our community. Collectively, we discussed past 4/20 events and the pros and cons. We also used our gathering to discuss best practices and strategic collaboration for addressing this year’s event. We are fully aware of the traffic and public safety impact this event has on the community so we are planning ahead to do our best to facilitate traffic flow. We will most likely have to detour traffic and close some streets, so we encourage you to stay tuned to this newsletter for updates on those road closures and detours. Unfortunately, we will not be able to determine some of these detours and closures until we see what is actually happening on the day of the event.



Lastly, I am also aware of how negatively residual quality of life issues related to this event impact parts of the district, so as we did last year, we will set up a community Hot-Line so residents can call for relief. Our planning will continue up to the day of the event, but I wanted to give our community this first official update for 4/20, 2017. Please monitor our future newsletters. We will soon announce the date of a community meeting so we can hear concerns from our local employees, merchants and residents.

With gratitude,
Captain John Sanford, Jr.

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Seeker's Space: Lee Sayer's Monthly Explorations

including:

The Dust of the Past, The Mist of the Future, & the Fire of Now.

On January 14, 2017 my clan and I attended the 50th anniversary of the first "Human Be-In," in hopes of knocking heads with the progenitors of this event. We were invited to this illustrious event by one of the O.G.'s of Haight-Ashbury, Tsvi Deer.

Tsvi lives two doors down from the old Dead house, which my bandmate now lives in. This is how we first met, and since have a freeform experimental psychedelic band called "Inner Journey Outer Space". Tsvi has owned multiple shops in the Haight over the years and is a wealth of amazing stories of his encounters with Janis, The Dead, and countless other '60s luminaries. The objective of my circle is to become the new torchbearers of the SF Bay Area cultural legacy. For those unfamiliar, the Human Be-In (1967) was the catalyst that more or less sparked the (in)famous '60s movement, which has since influenced the world unlike any other societal phenomenon. It was a prelude to the Summer of Love, which established the Haight-Ashbury as the official counterculture/anti-establishment capitol of America. In considering the above-mentioned responsibility, I realized the first pitfall we must avoid is naivety ...

To read more of this story, scan this

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Greetings Friends & Neighbors,

I am Lee Sayer of Haight-Ashbury, San Francisco ...

~I know nothing about anything but I do know something about some things~

This is the first installment in a series of opinion pieces that will explore a variety of topics

The Brassy, Beautiful & Beyond Talented: Pam Brandon

Born in England to musical parents, Pam Brandon started performing at a very young age. Now living in the Lower Haight, she works for a well-known engineering firm by day, and is a powerhouse performer by night. We recently had the pleasure of hanging out with Pam in the Haight and hearing her story.

HSV: What was your first impression of the Haight?

PB: When I moved out to San Francisco on August 9, 1986, I knew all about the Summer of Love and the Grateful Dead because I spent a year at Penn State hanging out with Deadheads. We lived in the “Cosmic House.” We made tie-dyes on the weekends, full-on Grateful Dead. I’ve been to a lot of Dead shows, my first were in Pennsylvania in 1984. I loved it, like, “Wow, this band means it.” I loved being part of that larger family of Deadheads. My parents didn’t know who I was when I went back home to visit! I left as this little perky girl and came back with a sari, a dot on my forehead, tie-dyes -- a vegetarian Deadhead! They were like, “What happened to our daughter?”

Fast forward to 1997, I moved to the Lower Haight. I fell in love with the neighborhood, and I’d come to Upper Haight and go vintage clothes shopping and play at the Club Deluxe, the I-Beam, the Milk Bar. I’d go to Amoeba Records and just enjoy the neighborhood. It’s very village like. Haight-Ashbury is cool because of the people here. All of that takes a community, from the wealthier people to the street people to everybody in-between. The City needs to recognize that the pleasures of San Francisco are going to go away if

they allow wealth and the tech industry to drive people out. Help artists and musicians and writers who create this vibe. Without those people there is no vibe! I think the Haight is in danger of being its own worst enemy. The tourist busses are a drag, people just gawking, like this is a little zoo they drive through. The street life makes it fascinating for tourists, but for locals I think it’s hard. There’s a sour side that needs to be cleaned up.

HSV: What would you like to say to the SF music community?

PB: Keep doing what you do, and remember that the idea of playing music is to give. And anybody who’s reading this magazine, remember, nobody’s paying these musicians a bunch of money, so when they walk around with that tip jar, put three or more dollars in there if you love that music. These people playing have years behind them of crafting what they do. If you’re digging what they’re doing, it’s because they’ve worked hard at it. I’m worried for musicians, artists, creative people. I’m afraid that the whole Trump transition and what I was saying about how cities need to invest in their artistic communities -- I’m afraid that’s going to get harder and harder.

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What Kind of Flower Child Are You?

"I Don't Want My Life To Be A Geranium"

by Alita Markus

Every month, we feature select contributions from artists, writers, bon vivants on this page. Please send your artistic explorations and expressions for us to consider at haightstreetvoice@gmail.com.

I could always tell a lazy, non-green thumb neighbor by those stale, cotton-candy pink and tired, scarlet-red-colored geraniums. Hate to hate on any living plant, but they're just too perennial. Yeah, orchids die and are so picky with sunlight and water pressure, and violets rarely come back after winter, but they're not boring ... because they're not always there. I don't want my life to be a geranium. I don't want to "always be there". I want to surprise people, bring delight, I want to struggle through the to die when I really one sprays too much wither and cough sprigly, brown bush to face, who didn't bugs on my own, I my friends! I don't nium ... safe, easy catering to the lazy by the Home Depot growing "evenly", want to be tended lent doubt. I want hoped for. I want to somebody's pressed



Image: Allen Daviau

Love,
Alita

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Street Scopes

by Sherene Shostak

Aries

February is all about your love and creative vibe, baby -- just in time for VDAY, Rammie!

Taurus:

Self-expression is your end-all-be-all this month, oh sexy Bull. Shine on!

Gemini:

Communication is full-on this February, lovely Thinker! But beware of gadget burnout, baby.

Cancer:

Moola rules everything around you this month, Crabbie. Remember: the Universe is infinitely abundant.

Leo:

The Full Moon in your stars puts you center stage all month long, Lion. Roar!

Virgo:

Relationships get all super mushy-gushy this month, Virgo. Can you handle Cupid's magic?

Libra:

As the Beatles toldja: You get by with a little help from your friends this month, Libra.

Scorpio:

Romance is real this month. Your desire is the command of the cosmos!

Sagittarius

Nothing wrong with lying low at your pad just for a month a year, gypsy Archer!

Capricorn

You're poetry in motion all month long, especially in your speech. You won't dominate the rap, Jack!

Aquarius

Your love life is totally set on fire this month -- but so is your wallet, darling! Listen to the Doors.

Pisces

You are the It-Girl hippie-goddess this month, poetic Pisces!

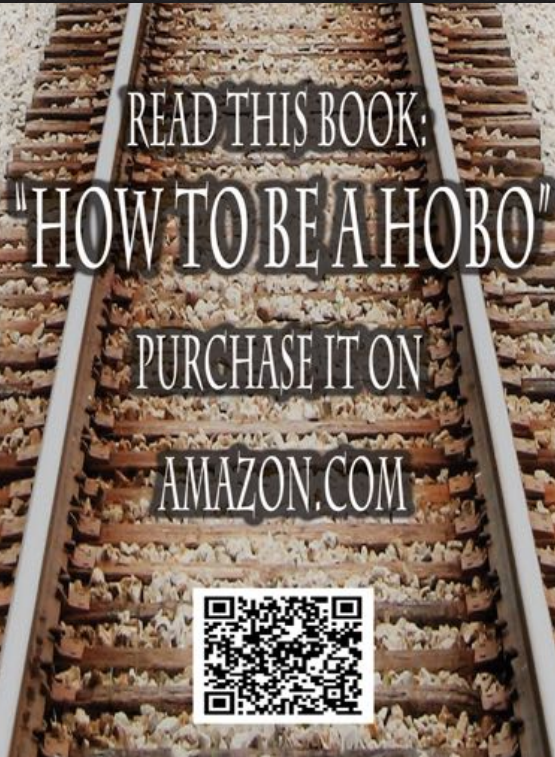


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Street Person Spotlight: Stryder

We recently spent some time with Stryder, and heard about some of his experiences in life. Turns out he traveled his way to the Haight in the late-'90s and now considers it his home. Here's a bit of his story. We think you'll dig getting to know this thoughtful vagabond -- and his sweet kitty Athena!

Stryder: I've been on the street since I was roughly 13. That was something I chose to do. I felt the Haight pulling at the strings in my heart. There's no other place like it. No matter how hard you look, you'll never find a place like Haight-Ashbury anywhere.

HSV: So, no school, but you're obviously a smart, young man.

S: There are different ways to educate yourself. School will only teach you what other people think you should know. It doesn't necessarily mean that it's what you need to know. I was basically raised by my grandpa, who very well could've been slightly crazy. He tended to go off on conspiracy theory rants, talking about how television and radio are evil. He liked to read a lot, and collected different items with weird symbology in them. He was obsessed chapters that had been taken out of the Bible. One of them was "The Keys of Solomon" where Solomon is talking about a Templar Knight of the Temple of Solomon, which was essentially built to protect the Arc of the Covenant and the Holy Land -- and

I've always remembered it:

"A Templar Knight is truly a fearless one, and doubly armed, for just as his body is protected by the armor of steel, his soul is protected by the armor of faith. Therefore he need fear neither demons nor men."

Whether or not you believe in it, the wording is beautiful. I think it should give people hope hearing something like that because it's about keeping faith and hope. If you ever lose those things, that's when there is none. But if you don't lose them, they're always there.

To read more of this story, scan this QR code with your Smart Phone

