



## Volunteers of Humanity

*"Look what's happening out in the streets  
Got a revolution (got to revolution)  
Hey, I'm dancing down the streets  
Got a revolution (got to revolution)  
Oh, ain't it amazing all the people I meet  
Got a revolution (got to revolution)  
One generation got old  
One generation got soul  
This generation got no destination to hold  
Pick up the cry  
Hey, now it's time for you and me  
We are volunteers of America"*

-- "Volunteers" by Paul Kantner & Marty Balin, Jefferson Airplane, 1969

The messages emanating from the music and time of the Jefferson Airplane (and the gajillion other mindblowing bands) seem to be floating around and on people's minds these days, at least around here. That sense of "What the f\*ck is going on and what are we doing?"

After a bit of poking around we discovered that Volunteers of America was founded in 1896 (and still rollin' along apparently) and is said to have envisioned a movement dedicated to "reaching and uplifting people". We dig that thought -- and the song it inspired. Riffing on that concept, we're connecting the dots -- and the lineage -- here to introduce China Kantner Isler, daughter of Grace Slick and Paul Kantner of said band. The photo here is China just



China and *Volunteers* album-art mural, Masonic @ Haight, August 2021. photo: Kari Zanotto

a few weeks ago standing in front of the mural here on Masonic (@ Haight) of her folks' iconic album (you've walked past it a million times, and if you haven't, you should). We had the pleasure of conversating with China in a video interview recently, about her growing up in a hard-to-imagine childhood, being an actress and MTV-VJ, the ups, the downs, on up to today, her own journey to recovery and her admirable work as a spiritual director for people who are ready to find a way to a healthier, brighter reality. She is -- what feels to be -- a volunteer of humanity.

**China:** I've always been a spiritual person, a seeker. Ever since I was little. I've had an open mind and I really credit that to my parents. I was not raised to believe in anything that I'm taught

just because I'm being taught it. To question everything. To investigate for myself to see what resonates, what's meaningful, valuable, and purposeful for me. Go do you, find out who you are, and give back to the world with whatever gifts that you have.

(con't on next page) —love—

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## ... China Kantner Isler (con't)

**HSV:** People standing on the corner doing their thing ... say they get tired of it and, yeah, they might want to get “straight”. But when you can live that free and easy — if you want to call it that — they’re in this quagmire of, “Okay, I’m ready to straighten up but I also don’t want to be part of the system because it’s fucked up.”

**C:** And that’s their choice, of course. It’s still a free country — I think. I hear you. It’s such an individual choice. My experience, and it’s only my experience, of over 40 years collectively of being involved in the recovery movement, advocacy movement, personal and professional — people respond to love. You can’t say to somebody, “You’re an addict. You have problems with substances. You need to do this, you need to do that.” You can care in a loving way and be there. If somebody is on the street and they’re comfortable doing whatever it might be, it’s not anyone’s job to go force somebody and say, “You need to get help!” They need to express it. But we need to have a place where they can go get help, where hu-

man beings can go get help. There are places, of course, but there’s a huge inequality from an economic standpoint. In recovery advocacy we work in policy and we work from spirituality. It’s meeting a person where they are and remaining curious and loving.

**HSV:** What would you like to say to the fine folks of Haight Street?

**C:** Thank you community members for your creative vision. It is budding again. I wasn’t there in the ‘60s but I’ve heard a lot about it from my parents and the magic is there now and it



photo: Roger Ressimeyer

can even grow bigger.

*“Make a career out of humanity ... it will enrich your spirit as nothing else possibly can.”*

-- Martin Luther King

Come watch the rest of our chat with China ...

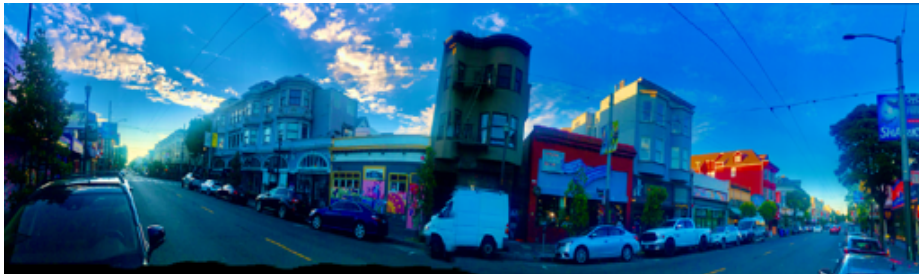


Publisher: Yon Hardisty

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Kelly

Haight Street Voice  
1388 Haight Street #120, SF 94117  
haightstreetvoice@gmail.com

# Letter from the Editor



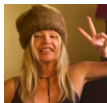
A very strong message sings to me as I sit wondering what to write for this “Letter from the Editor” — this letter to you. The feeling, the word, is *gratitude*.

We all make up this neighborhood, this place called the Haight-Ashbury, this magical spot we call home. A cornucopia of concepts and potential themes kept making themselves known as this edition of *Haight Street Voice* started taking shape: healing, psychedelics, family, survival, environment -- and they all seem to wind their way into one ultimate thing: *love*. Yeah, yeah, kinda corny, but it’s the truth.

Indeed, I am deeply grateful for all the beautiful buckets of love and support and kindness -- all the energy in the air flying around this neck of the planet ... the good, the bad, and the weird shining forth from so many towards this magazine. And so, I would like to thank ... *everyone*.

That being said, and felt, my deepest gratitude goes to all the folks who shared their time and their stories here within, and to those who showed support via the apropos advertisements adorning this edition. Sky’s the limit!

With deep gratitude and love,



*Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief*

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**OF HAIGHT**

*"If you're going to San Francisco be sure to wear some flowers in your hair."*

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*“Asia (middle) is one of our loyalist customers, neighbor, and friend, who moved out 15 years ago but still comes to visit -- and of course Mr. Ron Brownie (left) -- our neighborhood sheriff. I love my neighbors!”  
-- Mr. T*



## Roberts Hardware: Happy 90th!

**Haight Street Voice:** Your grandpa founded Roberts in 1931?

**Steve Smith** (co-owner with his brother Bruce): Yes, selling baskets, brooms, whatever he could find to sell. This is actually the third location, and they moved in here in 1964. When my father was a real little kid he lived on Shrader, and then they moved to Cole and that's where he grew up.

**HSV:** What's your earliest memory of tooling around in the hardware store?

**SS:** Probably coming to see my grandmother, who lived right around the corner. We would go pick up lunch at her house and then walk over and they'd run the store when I was really little.

**HSV:** Love the thought of you running around here at 1 year old! Did you love being at the hardware store?

**SS:** Yeah, I actually like it. I like being with people and interacting with them, so it's good.

**HSV:** The message of the Haight, the whole counterculture thing, is it still here you think?

**SS:** My family was here before that, during that, and now after that. But yeah, the feeling

is still here. It's still a very diverse neighborhood, people get along for the most part. Lots of

new places opening. You know what's really nice, the new middle eastern restaurant, Abu Salim. The music store closing was really a shame. It was a nice group of people in there. But the owner's retiring, spending more time with his family.

**HSV:** What would you like to read in *Haight Street Voice*?

**SS:** Current event things that are happening in the neighborhood, like the bocce ball court opening, and Flywheel opening, the coffee shop

right next to it. It's changing the area and making it more friendly. I'd love more music, more cabaret licenses for the bars. When I was growing up there were probably 4 or 5 and they've all gone away.

**HSV:** What would you like to say to the good people of the Haight?

*More stories from Steve in our video interview ... Enjoy!*



*That's the way they roll into work at Roberts Hardware. Hey Tom!*



## Amoeba Music's Joe Goldmark

*Fun getting to know one of the guys who co-owns that local music store you've been going to for over 20 years. Meet Joe Goldmark, People! Some highlights from our chat ... Dig!*

**JG:** Born in the Bronx, raised in Tuscon, Arizona, then moved with my family when I was 16 to San Francisco in 1967 — a real nice time to come here. I was at the Human Be-In. I was there when Jimi Hendrix played on the flatbed truck in the Panhandle and the first time he played at the Fillmore. I listened to KMPX and KSAN. I went to Lowell, and after school every Friday I would take the bus to the Haight and go to the Psychedelic Shop to get my poster cuz they were handing out the posters for the shows.

**HSV:** You landed smack-dab in the middle of it all! You play pedal steel, so ... “What’s In YOUR Bag?” [based on an Amoeba show]. Who are your influences?

**JG:** I started playing cello as a kid. took guitar lessons like kids do, came to SF, started playing bass. I went to Cal for a couple of years as a music major, started playing pedal steel which I fell in love with after seeing Jerry play it with the New Riders. Dropped out of school to play and started immersing myself into the world of country music. In the ‘70s, I joined the Billy C. Farlow Band, lead singer of Commander Cody.



In the ‘80s I got married and got my first-time real job, which was with Captain Video. In ‘86 I opened Escape From New York Pizza with partners from Captain Video. Ran that for 10 years and got recruited for the Amoeba expansion. I’ve been working on Haight Street for 35 years! It’s amazing that we have this community here and there haven’t been more problems. Everybody pretty much gets along, and has over the years. I feel safe walking down Haight Street and always have basically. There’s a lot of people who have nothing to lose and yet they still are generally respectful and try to get along.

**HSV:** Heard there’s a vinyl resurgence?

**JG:** People rediscovered their record collections during covid.

People want to get phonographs and records. One of the beautiful things about Amoeba is that you don’t need money to shop here, just bring in some used vinyl, CDs or videos. We’re a big trading post. We’re pretty proud of that.

**HSV:** What would you like to say to the Haight-Ashbury community?

**JG:** Amoeba loves being in the Haight. We came here because we felt it’s the heart of the City. We thank you for being your record store!



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## ESCAPE ... by Cary Tennis

From what, what was my primal escape drama, the root thing from which I am always fleeing, that I wanted to flee since I was a child? Tedium and waste, the waste of lives, the cowardly waste, letting life slip by, I thought of it as cowardly anyway, that people could just go on with their lives without trying to break free, without at least looking on the other side of the river, without curiosity. And like Henderson the Rain King, I Want, I Want, I Want ... I wanted so much! I wanted beatniks, Broadway shows, television lights, underground comics, wild-eyed communists and revolutionaries, bombers and anarchists, fancy sluts and trannies in dive bars, Dominicans ... the Dominican Republic I mean, and acid trips in vans, long cross-country trips, saying hello to the nation, its beauty its vastness, the promise of America, as if not to do this was not to have gratitude to the founders of American democracy, those restless folks who set this up, who set it rolling, this magical place which for all its flaws is still

a rocking beacon, a strange loud lighthouse to the world, a place where you can be anybody, where you don't register with the police when you move into an apartment, where you can choose your

religion and your friends and family. Escape! The French poets! The Expressionists! The gypsies and wanderers! Hippie dreams! It is the duty of every prisoner to attempt escape. Isn't that true? Every prisoner of love, of law and school, of wealth or poverty, every prisoner of boredom and doubt, of ignorance and want, it is the duty of every prisoner to attempt escape, and also to only reveal name, rank and serial number is that not right? It is our duty not to reveal state secrets or the secrets of our comrades, our friends, those who let us



sleep on couches and tell no one where we are, those who lie on our behalf to the police, who lie on our behalf to the parents who seek to return us to captivity! Escape is no crime. It is a duty.

Check out more of Cary's writing!  
<https://www.carytennis.com/>



## Psychedelic S.F! New Art Gallery & Meeting Space

Something unique and aesthetically alluring (have you seen the colors poppin' up all around Masonic and Haight recently?) is coming to Haight-Ashbury this fall. Psychedelic S.F., an art gallery and meeting space -- owned by one of the neighborhood's far-out couples -- Josh and Cassie Council -- is opening on the southeast corner of Haight and Masonic.

"The gallery's express purpose is to assist people in opening their eyes, hearts, and minds through the symbology of psychedelic paintings and rock-n-roll concert posters," according to owner Josh Council. Celebrating the Haight's artistic history -- from the very first concert posters drawn by the "Famous Five" of Griffin, Kelley, Moscoso, Mouse, and Wilson

to today's leading visionary artists like Alex Grey and Mars 1 -- Psychedelic S.F. will be a space focused on showcasing today's best and brightest artistic talents alongside the perennial standout artists who time and again have



created images that have withstood the test of time. The art gallery in the months to come will present a San Francisco Rock Art show, an exclusive Art of the Beatles show, and Grateful December leading up to the Dead & Company New Year's Eve concerts at the Chase Center. "We'll have solo artist showcases,

live painting sessions, and local artist showcases," Josh explains. Coming up in the next few months: an exclusive show by renowned local artist Michael Moss and some special events coinciding with The Rock Poster Society show in October.

Another cool feature of Psychedelic S.F. is that they'll offer state-of-the-art meeting spaces with audio/visual capabilities for groups of 2 up to 50.

This new spot in the neighborhood is already bringing good vibes (they had an opening 4th of July

weekend with a live band and a chance to scope out the new digs) and a sense of something happenin' here. We're looking forward to experiencing what's next at 1399 Haight @ Masonic.



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## Opening Doors of Perception in the Haight

*We dig hanging and chatting with Cassie -- that cool chick you always see behind the counter at Pipe Dreams? Here are some nuggets foraged from our recent pow-wow.*

**CC:** I grew up in Georgia, Northeast Georgia. It was horrible. My life was pretty shitty there. Weird culture. Not my people. Didn't feel like I fit in anywhere.

**HSV:** Had you always wanted to come to San Francisco?

**CC:** I always wanted to live on the West Coast.

**HSV:** What were your first impressions?

**CC:** I was 25 when I first came out here in 2010. It was awesome. It was summertime, freezing and foggy (laughing) there was no sun. I remember having to buy a hoodie. I loved it.

**HSV:** And now here it is 11 years later and you and Josh are rockin' the neighborhood.

**CC:** It's amazing. I don't really know how it happened. The stars aligned I guess. The stars aligned, that's what happened, you know? The vision is to bring art to the neighborhood. So many amazing things have been happening lately and I feel like there was a big shift in the world of humanity and evolving. I think that some people are waking up. Open peoples' minds, let people

see that there's a different way to live, that they can be happy no matter what the bullshit situation they're in. See what you can do to help cuz that's what it's all about. And it's so rewarding to help people. When tourists come into our shop from other parts of the country ... and they see all these things they've never seen before and you tell them about stuff, artists ...

**HSV:** They're like kids in Disneyland.

**CC:** Yeah! I show them how glass is made, talk about medicine, and it's beautiful, just beautiful. We've had so many people buy their first supplemental mushrooms from us and it really really helps them.

**HSV:** What would you love to say to the Haight community?

**CC:** Help each other, be there for each other. Get your head right, get your mind right. Smoking pot's not bad, doing plant medicine, having psychedelic experiences can be really beneficial. The whole thing we gotta do right now is just help the community as a whole. I know in my heart there's enough good people out there that we can turn shit around.

*See our full-length video chat with Cassie. Follow the love!*

love →





# Tails from the Haight



**Creatures of  
Community!  
We LOVE you!**



**Clockwise from top left:  
Sunshine & Dr. Dave;  
Abigail & Trouble;  
Shark Tooth & Token;  
Random Oak & Fell  
sighting basketball, cell-  
phone & Pig... we LOVE;  
Cali, C(at)EO of  
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## Street Person Spotlight: Savannah

*There sat a young woman on Haight, a mural she did paint. We stopped and had a cool chat with 19-year-old Savannah. Originally from Clayton, CA, she's ever-grateful for her pilgrimage to San Francisco. Here's her story ...*

**Savannah:** 8th grade is when I really started coming here and thought it was so cool. I'd see all the kids on the street and wanted to hang out with them and experience this whole other lifestyle. I'd never seen that before. I was 17 when I lived on the street for 3 months. Then coronavirus hit so I had to move back to my parent's house for a bit. The street was a good experience for me. People are actually genuinely happy not having anything. They just have a bag on their back and they're grateful. I felt like I wasn't. Now I'm grateful for everything: a roof above my head, an awesome dog and cat. Things have definitely gotten a lot better since I've been here in San Francisco.

**HSV:** Were you rebelling against something?  
**S:** It was more wanting to experience everything life has to give. Suburbia is a one-life path: you grow up, go to college, you do that. I don't want to do that.

I'd come to the conclusion at a young age that this is my way of life. Everyone individually, it's their life. I had that mindset so my parents didn't try to bring me home. They said, "Go experience and whenever you're ready you have a place to come to."

**HSV:** That's a blessing. Where did you sleep when you were on the street?

**S:** Out front of Magnolia and Gus's and the music store before it was gone.

**HSV:** Were people nice or did they boot you out?

**S:** For the most part, people understand because we're young, they give us an easier time than the older people. People can definitely be rude.

**HSV:** So here you are painting a mural at Pipe Dreams.



**S:** Art's always been my way even though this takes a lot more time than writing a sentence. You can actually see what I'm trying to express.

**HSV:** What do you want to say to everybody?  
**S:** I love them and keep going. Keep on pushing. At times it gets hard, but we've just got to keep the love alive and keep spreading it because without the love there'd really be nothing.



# SPORTS DESK

by

Cynthia Johnston



*CIA Brat turned gonzo blogger, Cynthia Johnston learned her politics in the belly of the beast ...*

Tip o' the top hat to Trixie Garcia and the good vibes tribe at Garcia Hand Picked (get it?) Cannabis. Launched in a dispensary parking lot from a bus called Bertha, Garcia Hand Picked exceeds expectations from edifying aroma (they list terpene as well as cannabinoid content) to energizing effect. We were privileged to sample a smooth and silky Sativa, perfectly cured to minimize cough (important for an old head) and maximize cerebral stimulation (even more important for same old head.)

\* \* \*

All that wasted real estate on the back of the new Giants tangerine team hoodies screams for a full-size bridge-rising-out-of (or disappearing into?) fog logo on the back. But where was the Stealie? After all, Tuesday, August 10th was Garcia Tribute Night at Oracle park. At the end of a tortuous twice-tied game, they needed a miracle – “just one” – and they got it for an 8-7 victory over Arizona. But those uniforms look like jammies and we want a pair.

\* \* \*

Thought floating up on a cloud of smoke: With Fentanyl replacing heroin on the streets, can we finally stop “fighting for freedom” where the poppies grow?

Check out Cynthia's badass site here: [www.mywayisthehighway.com](http://www.mywayisthehighway.com)



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A man and a woman are standing in front of a large, vibrant, and colorful mural. The mural features a central figure with large, multi-colored wings (green, blue, yellow, red) and a face with large eyes. Below the wings are various other colorful elements, including what looks like a large blue and orange creature. The man is wearing a grey shirt, blue jeans, and a black cap. The woman is wearing a patterned dress and a grey jacket. They are both smiling and looking at the camera. Two dogs are sitting on the sidewalk in front of them: a small white dog with black spots and a larger white dog with black spots. The text "ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?" is overlaid at the top in white, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is text about "Psychedelic S.F." and "1399 Haight Street". At the bottom center, there is text that says "Trouble...". At the bottom right, there is text that says "... Space Wrangler".

**ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?**

**Psychedelic S.F.**  
1399 Haight Street

Trouble...

... Space Wrangler