

HAIGHT STREET VOICE

YEAR 4 #12

"HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

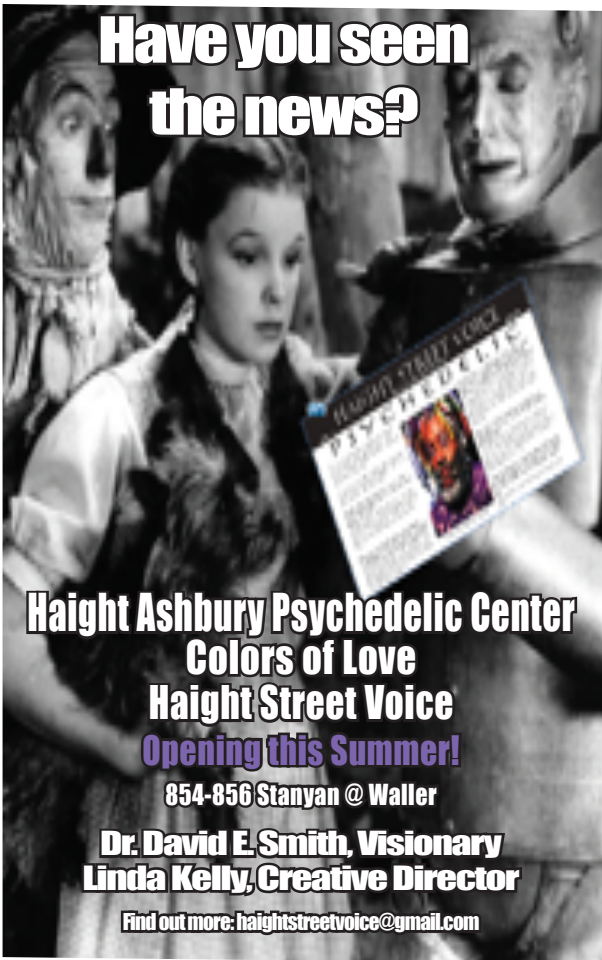
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



*“I’m a rescue doggy and I felt quite foggy
When they said I’d found a new home
It’s Dianne and Ben, and now never again
Will I have to be all alone*

*They said Hey there, Charlie, we’re gonna call you Marley
Don’t bother barking ‘cause you’ve got no choice
Show your cocka-poo mojo and we’ll get your photo
On the cover of the Haight Street Voice*

*Haight Street Voice!
Wanna see my picture on the cover
Voice!*

*Kelly’s gonna do it, don’t you love her
Voice!*

*It’s gonna be my face
On the cover of the Haight Street Voice!
On the cover of the Haight Street Voice.”*

by Ben Fong-Torres

[To be sung to the tune of “The Cover of the
‘Rolling Stone’” by Shel Silverstein, first record-
ed by Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show, 1972]

Talk about a treat! Woof! I was floored when my mentor and good friend Ben whipped up that little ditty for this Dog Days of Summer edition of *Haight Street Voice*, dedicated to all the incredible creatures of this world, past and present. The love and joy they bring reminds us to find that within ourselves and share it -- especially in times like these. Be kind to one other, People. It ain’t that hard. We are a global community. This family must heal. Shine your Family Dog values ... Now.

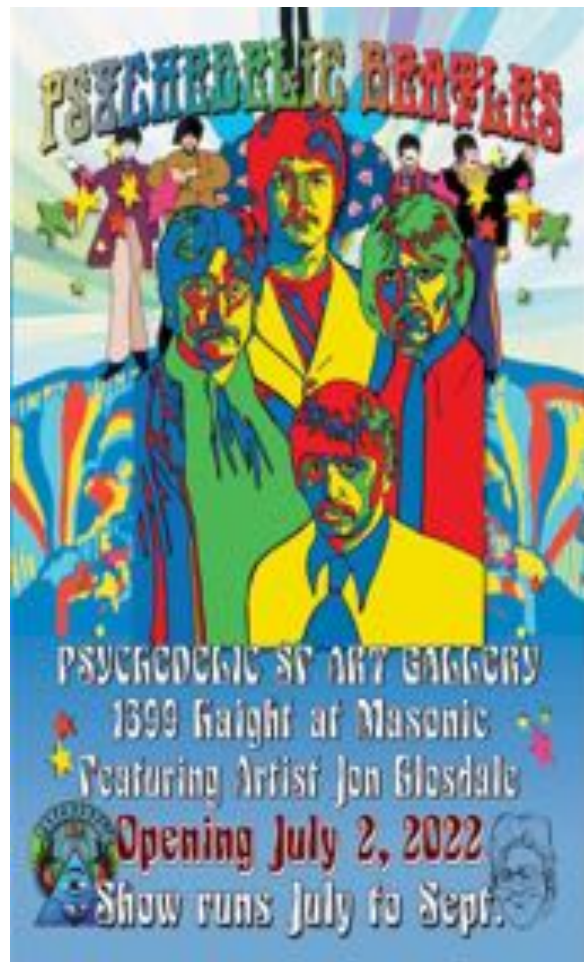
Love from the Haight,

R.I.P. sweet Lucie



Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief

*Sign up for the Haight Street Voice
newsletter and never miss a thing! See
ya in your inbox! —love—*





An exhibition of works by legendary poster artist Stanley Mouse / a self-guided tour of the Haight featuring architectural and cultural highlights like the Grateful Dead House / participation in a neighborhood affinity group for the preservation of historic and cultural resources / other activities all summer long

www.haightandashbury.org

 @sfheritage



SF HERITAGE

A CHAT WITH EMILY, OUR BELOVED POST LADY

Haight Street Voice: When did you first come to San Francisco? How old were you, where did you come from?

Emily: I was born 1972 in Burma, Yeman. My native town is Moko but I grew up in Mandalay. I was here in San Francisco 2002. I was 36. My husband [Brian Chan] was petitioning here, so we married and I immigrated here. In our country, we don't have rights, and the military coup have been torturing and killing and burning all the villages. I want to pray for them to get federal democracy.

HSV: This community loves you. I told people I was going to interview you and everybody was so excited. If we in our community can help, what can we do?

E: We have a website [<https://www.nugmyanmar.org/>] representing our government, and you can make a donation there.

HSV: When did you start at the post office?

E: I started in 2007 and I'm luckily in this zone 94117 since I started! Most of the people know me. Maybe they might not know my name exactly, sometimes me too, I know the person but I don't know their name. So that's why I thank you for interviewing me!

HSV: You were so excited a few months ago

when you told me your daughter just graduated. Tell me what that means for you.

E: I have 2, actually. My son Sean just graduated last year and this is his first year at UCSD. My daughter Tiffany just graduated from high school. She wants to do biology and she's planning on going to UC Davis. The main thing is my husband and I want to support our children. We work for them to get educated here in America.



HSV: What do you love about the Haight Ashbury?

E: The people around here, they are so loving. Everybody treats me very nice. At first I was a little

bit scared to get this route, but the reality when I deliver I realized this is the perfect route for me. What I love is that they have a restaurant, they have a business, they have a fair. And also the park. I can see people exercising, kids playing. Plus, like today, very hot, but in SF, very nice. Oak Street, I have 3 blocks that give me shade, and the wind from the ocean — that's very nice for me! I love Haight Ashbury neighborhood! I love my job a lot. I can see all the people from all over the world — every day!

HSV: We love you, Emily! What would you like to say to everybody in the neighborhood?

E: "Mingalaba, Haight Street!" That means "hello" in Burmese!



FATHER DAN: BRINGIN' LIGHT, LAUGHTER & LOVE TO THE 'HOOD

We love running into Father Dan and his wife Kate on Haight with their sweet dog Maggie. Hailing from Flint, Michigan, they've just celebrated their one-year anniversary living here in the rectory of All Saint's Episcopal Church on Waller. They can often be found dancing it up at Club Deluxe or perhaps having a cocktail at Zam Zam. Wherever they may show up, we're grateful for their presence in the neighborhood!

HSV: There might be some people who misunderstand, that you're not going around preaching about this or that.

FD: Not at all. I'm a priest in the Episcopal church, and this particular parish has what we call an Anglo-Catholic history to it. We honor the traditions. It's about Jesus. What really draws me is that Jesus hung out with *everybody*.

He broke bread with everybody, but he paid particular attention and care to those who society kind of pushed to the margins. That's where I take my influence from.

San Francisco has really been a good fit. I believe in a ministry of presence and visibility, so that's why I'm out and about dressed as I am, so that people know. The nice thing about the Haight is that folks-dress in all kinds of interesting attire, so I don't really stand out, right? [laughs] Once people find out that I'm someone they can talk to, it opens up conversation. It's really helpful for people to see that all kinds of different folks talk to each other in the Haight.



This is a great neighborhood, and I just see myself as kind of a bridge-builder. My ordination vows as a priest call me to relate to everybody: rich and poor, young and old... *everybody*. I take that very seriously. It's important for everybody to realize that the vast majority of the people hanging out on the street want this to be a peaceful neighborhood every bit as much as the people who are living in the nice houses farther away from Haight Street proper.

HSV: How can we strengthen our community?

FD: I believe most people here want to live their lives as they understand it and don't want to create trouble for others. How do we do that? Simply by being observant and saying hello, somebody who may be sitting on the sidewalk, maybe with a dog, maybe smoking a blunt, just looking at them

and saying, "Hey, good morning!" Simply recognize the shared humanity. It's so easy for us in our haste just to walk by someone. This is really a vibrant neighborhood. Respect and love people where they are and you'll probably see that the vast majority are actually pretty cool. Just stop and get to know them. I meet so many folks in the Panhandle just walking the dog!

Follow the QR code to watch our video with Father Dan, Kate and Maggie. To read the full transcript, go to: <https://haightstreetvoice.com/father-dan-bringin-light-laughter-love-to-the-hood/>



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You are a true champion in our neighborhood
-- truly like **family** to everyone!
And man, you make us laugh!

COOL DADS IN THE HAIGHT

Meet Andy Soloman, 2 decades in the Haight; and Richard Ferguson, 3 decades. They're cool dads in the 'hood who often hang out on their stoop with their kids [Andy's boy, Jude, 8, and girl, Reya, 5; Richard's girl, Izzy, 6], just sharing good vibes. We met up in the Panhandle a couple months ago and, while the kids ran around, we found out just what makes these urban dads tick.

ON BEING A PARENT

Richard: The human brain doesn't comprehend it, even if everyone around you tells you how hard it is.

Andy: When I found out Richard was gonna have a kid I was like, "Oh boy. Get ready, man."

R: About 6 months into the pregnancy, Andy goes, "You know you're screwed. You're never gonna sleep and your life is pretty much a wrap." [laughter]

A: Because he was living a free life.

R: I was like, "Whatever. I have a dog, what's the difference?" Then it happened and I didn't sleep for years, my eyes were bloodshot ... [laughter]

A: It's true. It's so hard. This is my advice to everyone: First, do it on purpose because it is WAY harder than you think. Number 2: it's exactly as rewarding as it is hard. People that don't have kids [hand way up], they're having this much more fun than we're having, but they don't get this [Jude next to him]. It is exactly as beautiful as it is hard — and it is as hard as it is beautiful.

ON LIVING IN THE HAIGHT

A: It's awesome because it's fun, it's exciting. Whenever you walk out the door you know you're gonna see something fun. I like being a presence in the neighborhood and we're standing out front, playing baseball, drinking beer, listening to music, and having the neighborhood walk by. It's a very tight neighborhood. Everybody who lives here knows that.

HSV: It's beautiful. It's heartwarming. [Jude, Reya and Izzy run over ...]

HSV: What do you guys like about living here?
Reya: Kitties! I like everything!
Izzy: I like the whole entire world!

Jude: I like Free Gold Watch Arcade and I also like Escape from New York Pizza.

HSV: [To Andy and Richard]: What would you like to say to the neighborhood?

A: Stay weird. It's weird out there, and that is by design. That's why you're here.

R: I support what he said, and I'd say talk to your neighbors. Communicate with the people that live in your community. Make those connections.

Follow the QR code to watch our video with Andy and Richard talking all-things fatherhood: the good, the bad, and the weird. Read the full transcript, here: <https://haightstreet-voice.com/cool-dads-in-the-haight/>



NEW PET STORE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

Hot Diggity Dog! Man, we're excited to have a new pet store in the 'hood! We popped into Grooming & More [1524 Haight aka the Jimi Hendrix Red House] to talk to owner Marwan just days after they opened their doors to what promises to be a wonderful "spot" in the community!

Haight Street Voice: Hey Marwan! Tell us, what's going on in here?

Marwan: I've been here since 1991 when we opened the Haight-Ashbury Tobacco Center. I sold it in 2017. The guy moved out last December. Coming to the Haight and seeing so many vacancies, I thought maybe I should do a business here [instead of] putting it up for lease.

I checked with my friend and my sister, she does dog daycare, but unfortunately they both changed their mind. The didn't want to be in the City. So I decided to do it on my own. Looking at the neighborhood, I knew it needed more service establishments, and there's none on Haight Street -- dog grooming and all that stuff -- so we decided to do it!

HSV: And lord knows there are lots of dogs!

M: I did some research and it seems there are more dogs than kids in San Francisco. There's about 220,000 dogs in the City.

HSV: Grooming & More opening is so perfect for this "Dog Days of Summer" edition!

M: Yes, we're open! We're still getting more crew to come in to work, but everything's good to go.

HSV: So you're going to do daycare as well?

M: We have about 600 square feet of daycare area upstairs. We have the grooming and self-service dog wash downstairs. And we have the food, the supplies, the accessories, kennels, mattresses, and beds all at the front. The only thing we're missing right now is food for some other animals, like birds.

That's all coming next week.

HSV: Cool! What would you like to say to the Haight Ashbury community, especially after covid?

M: I'm back! We're trying to do as much as we can for you! And if anybody needs any help, just come back and talk to me or one of my workers and we'll try to do our best to

make you happy!

HSV: And what would you like to say to the cats and dogs in the neighborhood?

M: Cats and dogs? We're happy to take care of you guys here and hopefully — the same thing — we'll try to do our best to be nice to you!

HSV: Awww. Alright! Thanks so much!

M: Yeah, you're welcome!

Cat got your tail? Can't swing by and see the new digs? Follow the QR code to watch our video tour!

www.haightashburygrooming.com



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STREETPERSON SPOTLIGHT: GENIVER DELVOYE

I came to the City as a runaway at 15. I landed downtown but that vibe was just too hectic for me. One of my friends said come to Haight Street for Bicycle Day (April 19) and I fell in love ... with Haight Street. I stayed for Bicycle Day. And for 4/20. And for my birthday, which was almost a week later, 4/26. I have never had the urge to be anywhere else. As a young mother, I got Section 8 housing downtown, but we would sleep down there, and come up here to hang out. When I became homeless as an adult, I knew that Haight would be the only place I would be safe. After finding housing through the efforts of Mary Howe, and the HYA, I realized that Haight Street was my home and wherever my housing was just wasn't that important. I come up everyday to hang out and paint and write, or just to sit and watch my neighbors go by.

Excerpt from Daphne's Story: Tale of a Homeless Dog by Geniver Delvoye:

"When I was born, I was homeless. I was born in a shopping cart in Golden Gate Park, in the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco. My dog daddy was a purebred husky that had run away from his house and came to the park. My dog mom, Lady Bug, was a boxer/pitbull mix.

Most people are afraid of dogs that look like her, and so my human grandpa could not find a place to live. He liked to yell, and talk to himself, and he smelled bad all the time.

When I was little and my eyes were still closed, a lady would come to see me. She was homeless too. She would pick me up out of the shopping cart and hold me and kiss me and say nice soft things to me. She would bring my



Geniver and Daphne (right). 

dog mom good food and sometimes she would bring me milk to drink ..."

Originally from the East Coast, Geniver says she knew she was home from the minute she set foot on Haight Street. Currently a student at Berkeley City College, Geniver started drawing and painting at a young age, having her first showing

when she donated the painting "Five Births" to UCSF Mt. Zion Women's Health Center in the early 2000s. Geniver lives with her husband and three husky mix dogs. Her five children are grown, and all live in San Francisco.

Daphne's Story is an incredibly moving and poignant book, told from the viewpoint of Daphne, and can be bought directly from Geniver:

delvoyegeniverm@gmail.com 

SWIMMING IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY - BY ERIN HALLETT

In a city of nearly a million people, I'm blessed — our course is lit by the bright full moon.
with an incredible upstairs neighbor; who's not

*only a fantastic,
funny, friend
-- but also a
kickass physical therapist at
USF and one
helluva ballsy
girl who swims
in the Bay often
in the wee hours
of the dawn. Go
Erin! We love
you!*



Photo: Erin Hallett (woot!)

Just before sunrise, I am standing at the water's edge, looking out towards the opening to the San Francisco Bay — the water is dark, cold, yet still inviting.

The first minute is humbling — the temperature takes your breath away, your vision is limited to a few feet in front of you and all you can hear is the rhythmic splash of each stroke you take.

This morning is a bit different though. As we swim together, stroke for stroke, out the opening of Aquatic Park and towards Fort Mason

As the moon begins to set behind Hawk Hill, the sun begins to rise behind us. The moon's white light sparkling on the water begins to shift and trade places with pink and orange light reflected off our wake as the sun rises — as if involved in a

choreographed dance.

Swimming in the Bay has become a very important part of my life these past few years. It is a place I can go inward and I find solace that the only constant is the ebb and flow of the tides.

This morning, I pause from my swimming and float on my back for a moment to witness this incredible display of nature.

I am home.

A photograph of four men sitting on a boat's deck. They are wearing colorful, patterned shirts and hats. A logo for "FREEBORN" is visible in the top right corner of the photo.

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Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by
Michael Sollazzo



Hello, Haight-Ashbury!

Did you know that the saying “the Dog Days of Summer” comes from ancient astronomers noting the return of Sirius, the Dog Star, to the Northern Hemisphere’s night sky? It’s true! I read it on the internet, and the internet doesn’t lie...

Anyway, in celebration of the hottest days of Summer (these ancient astronomers didn’t live in San Francisco I’m guessing), we’re going to look at where Sirius is in your chart:

Placed in mid-Cancer, Sirius is in your 3rd House, which rules communication, thinking, social activity ... and neighbors! Perhaps this is why the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood has retained its vibe over the years: We’re a pack and we protect our own.

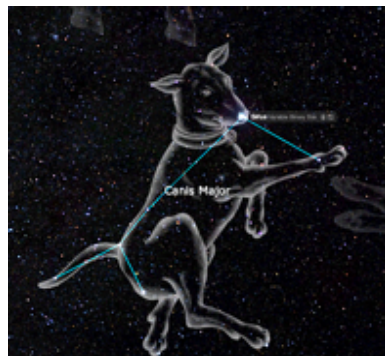
This feeling may be most evident in early July when the Sun meets up with Sirius, which could be a great time for a picnic or BBQ with your neighbors. (Hot dogs, anyone?)

Later in July, the Sun meets up with your natal

Jupiter and the Cancer/Leo cusp... this could be a time to expand your emotional and romantic horizons.

Then, in mid-September, the Sun catches up with your natal Pluto and Uranus, which are opposite your natal Moon, Chiron, and Saturn. This could be a charged time, so be on the lookout for power-struggles, rebelliousness, and drama, especially ones you contribute to in your romantic relationships based on your own inner wounds.

As always, these energies are like the tides, and some of us will be more affected than others.



Have a great Summer, and we’ll chat again in the Fall. :-)

-- Michael

If you’d like to get an astrology or psychic reading, please email me at hello@michaelsollazzo.com

*More tasty treats at Michael’s website:
<https://www.michaelsollazzo.com/>*



SPORTS DESK

by

Cynthia Johnston



It's the Double-Dog Dare-Ya Days of Summer ... and by double-dog, I am of course referring to canna (dog) and bis (two) combining into Cannabis (weed.) Or to get even Further out, to the Dog-Star Sirius, from whence our sacred plant is said to come.

Speaking of stars and Cannabis and why it all matters, there was a recent event in San Francisco -- a gathering of the tribe -- a psychedelic summit on Bicycle Day, April 19, the anniversary of Albert Hoffman's first intentional acid trip in 1943.

Featuring a panel of elders, artists and outlaws, original Merry Prankster and tribal matriarch, Carolyn "Mountain Girl" Garcia regaled a rapt audience with stories about life on the road with THE original Merry Prankster, liberator (and distributor) of the VA's experimental supply of LSD, bestselling author, creator of the famous psychedelic bus Further and it's mind-blowing 1964 cross-country trip, and ringleader of the infamous Acid Trips, Ken Kesey.

Beaming with pride over born-on-the-bus daughter with Ken, Sunshine Kesey, also on the panel, MG makes it her mission to pass the

traditions and wisdom of the core tribe on to future generations: Question authority. Be kind to each other. Share consciousness-raising sacraments like marijuana and LSD. Pursue personal freedom and independence. Keep the show on the road. Keep the consciousness-raising psychedelic community intact and happening. Create events that bring people together and try new things -- TOGETHER -- in each other's actual presence, because that's when the magic happens. And perhaps most radical of all, have fun. Or to quote the Original Prankster, you can be subversive just by giggling a lot.

For those who are embarking on such a journey, MG's advice for being...as in surviving...On the Bus is that you have to be okay with not knowing where you're going. Which pairs well with Kesey's adage, "Since we don't know where we're going, we have to stick together in case someone gets there."

So where's the dare? It was written in graffiti on the 5th Street off-ramp back in the day: It takes guts to have fun!

Check out Cynthia's badass website:
www.mywayisthehighway.com



*Happy Summer
to Everybody in the Haight.
Love, Sing, Dance.*



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