

HAIGHT STREET VOICE



YEAR 6 #19

"HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

SPRING 2024

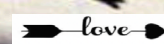
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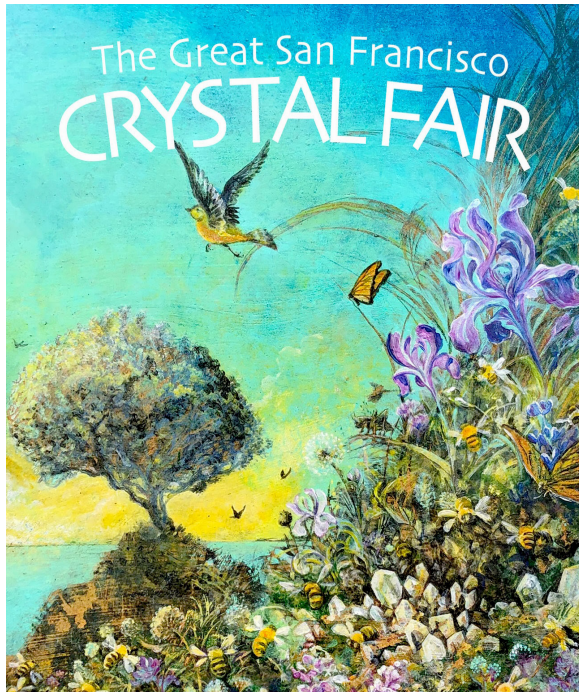
FLAMIN GROOVIE!



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*Deputy Editor
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



"Nature loves courage."

— Terence McKenna

Helluva day for a deadline: Total Solar Eclipse in Aries. WTF. That intense energy sort of wove its way into the pages of this Spring edition of *Haight Street Voice*. From the incredible cover art gifted by storyteller extraordinaire, Cyril Jordan, founder of SF's legendary band, The Flamin' Groovies (who frickin' rocked it at the 4-Star Theater on Clement in January) to the super weird reality of wearing a beekeeping suit just a few weeks ago and watching honey bees do their thing -- people, stories, and experiences came at me as they deemed fit, and I dug that. I just needed to get out of the way so they could shine. Synchronicity seems to be springing eternal these days.

A beautiful Spring to all.
Love from the Haight,

Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief



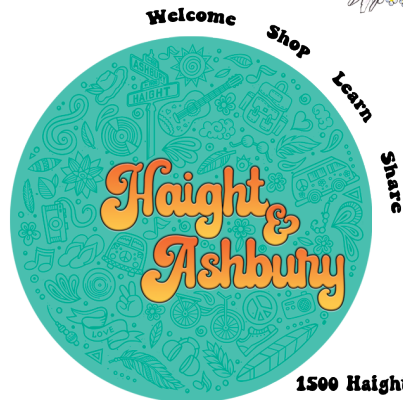
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FLAMIN' GROOVIES' CYRIL JORDAN: SHAKIN' SOME STORIES

Meet Cyril Jordan, founder of SF's legendary '60s rockers, the Flamin' Groovies, who are still gigging these days. One helluva gifted artist (that's his work on the cover of this edition of HSV) and storyteller; Cyril spins some groovy yarns about growing up -- and living the dream -- in SF. Dig!

CJ: In 1954, I was 6. We lived on 7th Ave. I could just walk and within 3 minutes I was in GG Park. I would sneak into the Steinhart [aka Academy of Sciences] through the back door and I'd be where the pendulum was swinging. It would be 10am, nobody was in there! I'd roam the halls looking at the taxidermied animals, touch the gigantic grizzly bear. They had a huge collection of antique

watches. I freaked out on the Mickey Mouse pocket watch, man! I mean it never went away! Then there was the alligator pit. People would throw quarters in there. I would climb over the railing, get the quarters, climb back out and buy one of those baloney and cheese sandwiches with mustard on it out of the machine. I'd never tasted this before. This was American food and I went, "Wow, this is great!"

You gotta realize I was living in two cultures. At home, I was European with a strict upbringing. Outside the house, I was an American. I'm looking at this new culture that my parents came to, and I'm looking at characters like Felix the Cat, Mickey Mouse, Popeye, and I'm goin', "Man, this country is fuckin' out there! This is fantastic!"

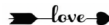
America to me was the greatest place on the Earth back then because this was all culture for the kids. I knew that the American culture was where it was at.

Even now when I think about it, the Haight made such an impression on me. There was a donut store on Stanyan that stayed open til 4am. I went there with Roy [Loney, of the Groovies] one night coming back from partying around town.

Chet Helms was in there. This has got to be around '65. He had very long hair and this was the first time that I saw somebody with long hair like that. About a week later I saw Jerry Garcia with his mop. He was the only long-haired guy on Haight.

This culture was virtually unknown in '65. In '66 we all found out about each other. The whole culture all of a sudden bloomed like a flower overnight, and before you knew it, there were so many bands in the area that it was mindblowing. You could be in a band that just started a week ago and nobody ever heard of you and you could be hangin' out with Jimi Hendrix. This is what was so cool about our culture back then -- there were no passports. There was no class system. We were all on an equal plane. I knew these people when they were nobody. I was there. We were all there on the ground floor trying to get somewhere with our art.

Follow the QR code to hear more of Cyril's fab stories, like trippin' with Hendrix, and a ton more! Be sure to catch the Groovies at The Chapel, SF on July 13!



Flamin' Groovies rockin' the 4-Star Theater, SF, January 27, 2024 (L to R): Atom Ellis, Cyril Jordan, Sean Fitzimons, Miki Rozgaji, Tony Sales

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ELETTRODOMESTICO: MUSIC FLOATS ETERNAL

B52s. The Go-Go's. Cracker. Bands whose music hits home somehow. Enter Elettrodomestico. I met this stellar two-piece band -- Jane Wiedlin of The Go-Go's and Pietro Straccia -- here in the Haight in 2017 as we were traveling the same music circles (they played the Red Vic!). Both have spent time here over the years, and a certain sort of psychedelic sci-fi vibe shines through in their music. This May, their second album comes out with a cover of "Low" by Cracker, and two tracks featuring vocalist Kate Pierson of the B52s. Seems music vibes are circling back around from days gone by into days to come.

HSV: What does the Haight Ashbury mean to you?
JANE: My fondest memory of the Haight was staying at that big old Victorian house on the NW corner of Haight and Ashbury in January of 1978 to see the Sex Pistols play Winterland. A big caravan of punks from Hollywood, including me, drove up for the show. My friends The Avengers opened. It makes sense to me that the Haight went from hippies to punks, because both movements were/are progressive and counterculture.

PIETRO: For years, Club Deluxe was a meeting point vortex of our tribe of psychonauts and misfits. My most memorable moments were those countless nights spent at our friend Justin's conversing and jamming in the back patio of his studio in "THE" Victorian at 710 Ashbury. (Think Grateful Dead y'all)

HSV: The Cracker connection. Why "Low"?



J: "Low" is my absolute favorite song of the '90s, and when we talked about recording it, it seemed like a natural. I think we brought our own signature sound and style to it. I can't wait to play it live!

P: Playing someone else's song can often give a band a deeper insight into their own sound. This cover has reminded me of how much Jane and I love harmonizing and layering our vocals giving the music our touch of angular twilight.

HSV: How about the Flamin' Groovies?

J: I never got to meet them but I do feel like they should be way more recog-

nized than they are. SF birthed so many great bands from so many eras: The Avengers, The Mutants, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Dead Kennedys, Brian Jonestown Massacre, and so many more. A lot of people think the Haight music scene started and ended in the '60s but it's not true at all!

P: It's an honor to be mentioned in the same issue as these legends whose vibes have surely made their way into our music, and for that I am grateful.

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

J: Keep being weird and wonderful! Keep being progressive and peaceful and musical and creative!

P: Wherever I may find myself in the world, I am committed to keeping dear to my heart the core spirit of that phenomenal cultural shift that originated in the Haight in the '60s. I know I'm not alone!

Follow the QR code to hear more from Jane and Pietro's magical musical minds! ➡ love ➡



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RIDES BY ME CLASSIC SIDECAR TOURS



“GUY WALKS INTO A BAR WITH A SWARM OF BEES ...”

Jeff MacMullen takes good care of his bees. After all, they produce his “We Be Honey” products. I got to know Jeff at the local farmers market a while back and was keen to learn more. He kindly agreed to an interview, so we met up at Danny Coyle’s pub on Haight where he keeps two boxes of his beloved bees, and he shared his story over one of his specialty honey drinks, an Irish Lemonade!

JM: We keep bees at auspicious locations, and this is one of them. The bees are kept in the backyard, which is dedicated for the use of their honey.

HSV: What other locations?

JM: The Bay Area. All over the Haight, all over San Francisco, Napa, East Bay, Marin. I’ve been doing this for 15 years.

HSV: How long have you been in San Francisco?

JM: Thirty years. I’ve lived in the Haight most of my time here.

(Jeff walks me out to meet the bees in the backyard)

JM: Here they are! *(singing the Temptations):* “My girls ... talkin’ ‘bout my girls!”

HSV: So they just live inside these two little boxes?

JM: Yes. Now watch. You never go to the front of the beehive. It’s the active place where they keep coming in and out. You don’t want to bump into them cuz if they see you or feel you or run into you, they’re going to question why you’re

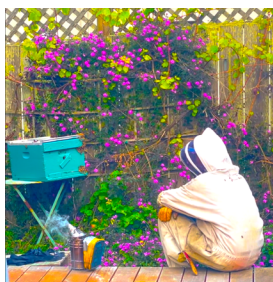
there. So we can touch the bee boxes by coming to the side, quietly.

HSV: Wow! I can feel them humming! Hi Mr. Bees!

JM: They’re girls. They’re all girls.

HSV: Hi ladies! You must love them so much.

JM: These are my girls. These are my demo boxes so people can see bees, touch a bee box, not be afraid of nature in an urban environment. This is a



Jeff saves a swarm in SF.

model for urban farming and it’s a success. The owner is a friend. He has bees here as a commercial agreement to have the best raw local honey that can be produced — because it’s from his backyard!

HSV: Do the bees like it?

JM: The bees love it! Look at them!

HSV: Do they know they’re in a city?

JM: This neighborhood has people that water their gardens! There’s an

avocado tree behind Molotov’s! Most of the flowers are blooming right now. The sweet is on high! The bees are dedicated to places that have flowers. They don’t care about us!

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

JM: Power to the people!

HSV: And the peaceful. And you. And the bees.

JM: One love!

Follow the QR code to behold the bees at the bar. Jeff saving a swarm, and me in a beekeeper suit. Who woulda think!?



HEALTHRIGHT360'S BLACK TIE & TIE-DYE BENEFIT

On May 22, 2024, HealthRIGHT 360 (HR360) will hold its annual Black Tie and Tie-Dye (BTDD) at Bimbo's 365 Club in North Beach. Since their inaugural event in 2012, BTDD has been one of the most successful fundraising nights and biggest parties of the year for Haight Ashbury Medical Clinics and HR360.

BTDD is a San Francisco tradition benefitting thousands of low-income clients and people experiencing homelessness who turn to HR360 for non-judgmental, compassionate health care and social services.

Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest 1960s "groovy-elegant" attire. This year HR360 will be paying homage to SF, with the theme, "We LOVE San Francisco." The evening will feature live music from a multitude of decades, a silent auction, tie-dye fashion show, specialty cocktails and mocktails, foods representing SF neighborhoods, and more groovy surprises along the way.

Sunshine Powers will be honored with a Community Visionary Award. An SF native, Sunshine discovered the wonder of Haight Street as a teenager and was a frequent visitor to Positively Haight Street, the shop at the corner of Haight and Masonic that she now owns, called Love on Haight. Sunshine seeks to "showcase the color, creativity, and consciousness that the Haight is historically known for." Expanding her vision in



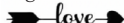
Dr. David E. Smith

2022, Sunshine's new enterprise, Colors of Love, serves as an educational training ground where women leaving incarceration learn the art of tie-dye and are given the opportunity to earn a living wage.

HR360 will also be honoring Eric Flowers with a Healthcare Visionary Award. Eric served on the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics' board of directors and actively participated in negotiations that led to the merger of the Clinics and Walden House, creating HR360.

"This gala always means a great deal to me," says Dr. David E. Smith, founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in 1967. "HR360 is on the frontline of dealing with the worst drug epidemic in US history that is causing very serious medical, mental health, and addiction issues in SF. The Haight Ashbury is not the center of this as it was in the '60s, which doesn't mean that the problem is solved, but I hope the Haight community continues to evolve. The Haight has been through this before. The community and businesses don't want it to happen again. There's a level of community involvement at that level."

With the fabulous Ben Fong-Torres at the helm, the Black Tie & Tie-Dye at SF's iconic Bimbo's promises to be a night filled with community, peace, and San Francisco LOVE!

Follow the QR code to learn more about BTDD and registration info. See you there! 



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FLOWER POWER IS PEOPLE POWER



By Kenna M. Lindsay

When you focus on supporting locally, it makes a difference.

For more than three decades, the Coalition on Homelessness has been endeavoring to practice community organizing, and publishing the independent newspaper, *Street Sheets*.

Written by people with lived experience of homelessness and distributed by people experiencing homelessness, those who offer it for a donation around the Bay Area get to keep the proceeds. In that way, the project supports itself and is able to be a voice for marginalized individuals.

This past month, I had the opportunity to catch up with them and go on a tour of the historic Haight-Ashbury district with Flower Power Walking Tours, hosted by Haight Street local, Stannous Fluoride.

On my walking tour with Stannous, I learned from his research and lived experience how groups like The Diggers, Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, and Haight Ashbury Food Program took action to make positive change locally. The Coalition on Homelessness newspaper created a basis of support for the organization to stay independent and able to be a strong advocate for the voices of people who are

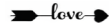
unhoused. As an independent press, they stand up for what they believe in and focus on problem-solving instead of what is popular or easy. **Kenna:** "What can the average person do to be a better neighbor to those experiencing homelessness?"

Jennifer Friedenbach, Executive Director Coalition on Homelessness: "All San Franciscans can be allies to the community. Treat your unhoused neighbors like your housed neighbors, acknowledge them, smile at them, ask how they are doing. Join your neighborhood groups. No citation has ever gotten someone off the streets. Advocate at City Hall and get resources for your community to get people off the street. If there aren't resources in your community, work with your neighbors to get them."

You can help by contributing to your local food pantry or by getting to know your neighbors, both housed and unhoused. Here in the Haight, you can get involved with the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, or (if you run a local business) join the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association.

One thing I know for sure is that it's never a bad time to start doing the right thing.

Follow the QR code to learn how you can help affect change.



STREET PERSON SPOTLIGHT: FEROX HARMONY

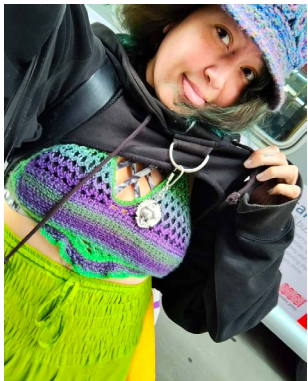
My name is Ferox Harmony, I'm 26. I'm originally from Tacoma, Washington. I started traveling and being a wild one at a young age.

I first came here in 2018 and returned a few times after, finally settling in during 2022. The reason I came here was just to explore and I found so much more than I could have ever expected -- great people and opportunities.

I'm now a regular on the corner of Haight-Ashbury, where I met Linda. I'm usually out with one of my cats, sometimes with my table set up, and we'd get to talking about the cats, what I was making, or anything else interesting that came up. Always such a meaningful conversation and never a dull moment.

Springtime is exciting here, the weather gets better and more people flood in. Those that travel come back through from their winter hiatus. And with that, more music and art blooms along the street like flowers. Smiling faces, old and new.

Haight Street has been a cornerstone for counterculture, music, art, individuality, and so much more. The community here



is full of love and creativity. There is a sense of family along the street that is absolutely beautiful.

I've received love and support through hard times, I've celebrated victories with friends, mourned with family, and even been corrected when I've made mistakes. I've been encouraged to explore my creative capabilities in more ways than ever before. I've started painting and drawing again, doing crochet and I've tried so many new media. I was artistically inclined when I was younger and somewhere along the way I had lost the joy in creating.

Being here surrounded by talented artists and musicians, and in a place that has such a beautiful history, has inspired and motivated me to explore and express myself more with art. I will always be grateful for the growth I've achieved as an artist and person in my time here, the friends and family I've made, and all of the inspiration I've found. The music will keep on playing on the Haight and I will keep on creating.

Follow the QR code to see some of Ferox's beautiful creations. Keep on keepin' on, Ferox!



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BTTD 2024

Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by
Michael Sollazzo



Hello, Haight-Ashbury!
Sometimes I get asked how to “use” astrology,
and here are some thoughts on that topic:

Astrology can be viewed as the study of cycles in the heavens and their synchronistic alignment with personal cycles. For example, do you experience a similar burst of energy nearly the same time every year? Maybe that correlates with the sun aligning with where Mars was when you were born. Paying attention to your personal cycles may help you know what to look for when digging into your astrology.

As a starting point, here are a few typical cycles you may encounter (each cycle is a full trip through all 12 signs of the zodiac):

The Moon ~27 days
The Sun ~365 days (inner planets Mercury & Venus are also about a year from a geocentric standpoint, as they can only be so far from the Sun, but there is variability due to retrogrades)
Mars ~685 days
Jupiter ~12 years

Saturn ~29.5 years
Uranus ~84 years
Neptune ~165 years
Pluto ~248 years



You may notice some typical patterns correlate with these cycles: menstrual periods may align with moon cycles; puberty and brain maturation may sync with Jovian cycles; the “seven-year itch” may be quarter Saturnian cycles; and midlife “crises” may be half Uranian cycles and/or quarter Neptunian cycles. Also, when we start looking at the outer planets of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto,

we may observe multi-generational cycles (e.g. familial and societal patterns).

In essence, astrology can be a tool to help you look at cycles and patterns in different ways, which ultimately may help you better understand yourself, others, and the ever-changing world around you.

I hope you enjoy the start to Spring, and please email me at hello@michaelsollazzo.com with questions, or to book a reading. :-)



SPORTS DESK

by

Cynthia Johnston



“I think Grace and Janis gave women the balls to take a chance, to believe in themselves.”

~ Cynthia Bowman, Publicist, Jefferson Airplane, Jefferson Starship, Cynthia Bowman Public Relations

I dug seeing women dominate the 2024 Grammys; dug how they celebrated and supported each other. It took me back to SF in the ‘80s and BAWIM – Bay Area Women in Music – a networking organization for women (and men) in the music business, founded by rock



Photo: Jim Marshall

journalist Sheila Rene (Sheila Rene Backstage, KSJO.) BAWIM featured field trips to members’ workspaces, like recording studios and night clubs. For me, the highlight was a tour of the Jefferson Airplane mansion. So, I called Cynthia Bowman, who conducted the tour. We talked about the role SF played in launching so many women’s careers. “I absolutely believe that SF was ground zero for women in music – not just musicians – DJs, publicists, concert promoters,” she said.

“I remember Sheila Rene very well. She’s a good example of women who created jobs for themselves. I think we all used Sheila Rene’s Clipping Service. All the major bands did. There were women like Jan Simmons and Rita Gentry at BGP (Bill Graham Presents) ... they were the ones on the phone with the Rolling Stones and the Grateful Dead, making all that stuff happen.

“Tom Donahue started KSAN in 1968 and it was the most innovative station ever in the history of radio. There was Raechel Donahue, Bonnie Simmons, Dusty Street.

A good third of the DJs at KSAN were women. That was unheard of. *Rolling Stone* magazine, born in SF, was full-on women. The copy editor was a woman, the photo editor was a woman, the managing editor was a woman. That was really unheard of! It was a tough time for women ... a time when women in publishing were typing or were receptionists. They certainly were not in powerful positions until much later.”

Then there was Janis Joplin and Grace Slick, blazing a trail for female rockers everywhere. In 1965 Grace saw Jefferson Airplane at The Matrix and in 1966 joined the band.

“She told me that that looked like a lot more fun than anything she’d done thus far. And it paid better. And you didn’t have to get dressed up. She loved that. So, she just jumped into it. None of us were really prepared for any of the stuff we did. I think women were drawn to and flourished in SF because it was a safe place to experiment with who you were and discover who you wanted to be. There were all these women who were independent creators. Fearless. It takes a lot of balls to do anything on your own. Even now, but certainly then. SF was ground zero for women on every level. It didn’t happen anywhere else. It happened *here*.”

Read more about badass SF Women in Music by following the QR code to extended play version! ➡ love ➡



We lost two lovely neighbors
in March 2024.

Fly on sweet angels...

R.I.P.



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OUR COMMUNITY ALL THESE YEARS**



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