

HAIGHT STREET VOICE



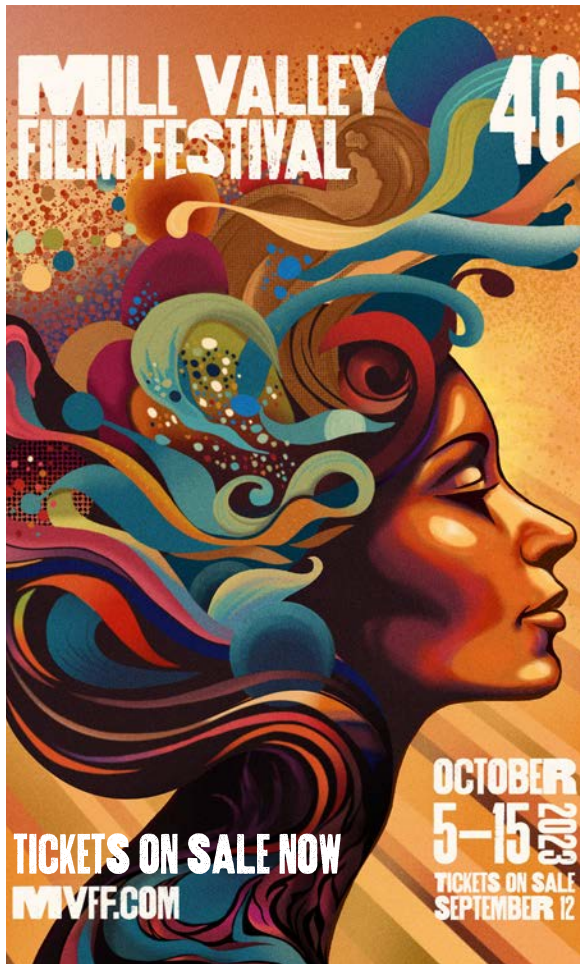
YEAR 5 #17

"HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

FALL 2023

DONATE!





CONTRIBUTORS OF CREATIVITY

Columnist / Editor **Cynthia Johnston**
www.mywayisthehighway.com

Columnist **Michael Sollazzo**
www.michaelsollazzo.com

Columnist **Kenna Lindsay**
[@kennamlindsayart](https://twitter.com/kennamlindsayart)

Guest Writer **Eleni Gardner**
[@uh.lady](https://twitter.com/uh.lady)

Cover Image **Linda Kelly**
haightstreetvoice@gmail.com

Publisher / Editor-in-Chief **Linda Kelly**
printed by PrintPapa since 2017 <https://www.printpapa.com/>



*Cali-in-Chief
R.I.P.*



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

*Advertise with us via print, digital & social media.
Email or snailmail with inquiries.*



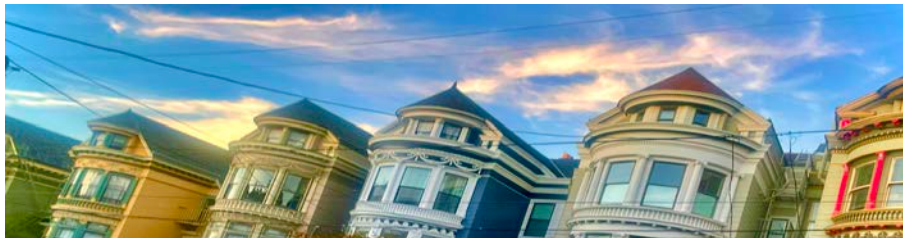
Support community journalism! www.patreon.com/haight_street_voice



*Deputy Editor
"Meeks"*



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It's 3am and I've met my deadline for this here magazine you're holding in your hands.

Ever since the very first edition went to print in 2017, *Haight Street Voice* has been a challenge to manifest, a joy, a nightmare, a living hell, a dream come true. Hard work yet beautifully satisfying somehow.

This edition is dedicated to all the hardworking souls out there, to anyone and everyone who is digging deep and doing whatever they can to rise above the doubt and shine their light, bring some sort of good into the world.

And now it's time for some sleep. Hope you dig whatever just got born here. As always, it just all sort of fell into place.

Falling Into Abundance.

A beautiful Fall to all.

Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief



*Support Community Journalism.
Subscribe today!
www.patreon.com/haight_street_voice*



SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST OUTRAGEOUS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE SINCE 1972. HIGH QUALITY MERCHANDISE, OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

1452 HAIGHT STREET 415-864-8075

Patent Pending is registered in a San Francisco agency owned by the City and County of San Francisco. © 2023

San Francisco Mercantile

Goods from over
150 local artists &
makers.

1698 Haight Street
www.sfmercantile.com



Welcome

Shop

Learn

Share

Haight & Ashbury

1500 Haight Street

www.WelcomeHaightandAshbury.com

10% of every sale at Welcome, Haight & Ashbury supports the mission of SF Heritage to preserve and enhance San Francisco's unique architectural and cultural identity.

SF HERITAGE

TIP O' THE HAT TO FIRE HOUSE 12 HERE IN THE HAIGHT!

Ever grateful to San Francisco Firefighters / Public Information Officers Justin Schorr and Mariano Elias for their informative — and fun — tour of Station 12 on Stanyan Street. Thank you to all the Firefighters of SF — and the world.

PIO Schorr: This station was built in 1956 as part of a 1952 bond measure. The beautiful mid-century architecture really carries through. It's an iconic SF firehouse from the '50s. [Pointing to fire truck out front.] This is the iconic SF articulated Ladder Truck with a 100-foot, extendable ladder. In the back of the vehicle is the "tiler seat" so we can steer the back of the trailer through the narrow streets and congested areas here in SF, especially in the Haight District.

PIO Elias: We're the only fire department that still has a working ladder shop that makes ladders. There happens to be somebody there who's also an artist. Each truck individualizes their "Johnson Bar" for the neighborhood. Obviously the Haight-District is iconic. You see the Grateful Dead symbol. Peace and Love! Still sayin' it. We still need it, right?

JS: Each company has a logo, something that brings them together as a family, as a group. All the members take great pride in their firehouse because the shifts that we work are 24 hours. We live, eat, hang

together. We spend a third of our lives with our firehouse families. [ALARM sounds off. Ladder truck drives off with siren wailing.]

JS: And just like that, away they go. Everything stops. Whatever they were doing, they'll pick up on when they get back.

HSV: Wow. That's really a moment of understanding the psychology of being a firefighter.

JS: Always ready. Always prepared. Somewhere between the Marines and the Boy Scouts is us. It's a paramilitary organization. We use the rank and structure of a military when we're in an emergency situation. We need to trust and follow the instructions from our officers in order to complete the task at hand. Everybody wants to slide down the fire pole and drive the back of the fire truck without realizing that that's very



SF Firefighters next to the beloved "Steal Your Face truck" - Ashbury at Haight.

little of what we do. Lots of drills, lots, lots of preparation.

HSV: What would you like to say to this community?

JS: Let's take care of each other. Let's watch out for each other. We're honored to be able to serve this community. Each of these stations is a house, it's where we live. We're part of the community. We're glad to be welcomed into your home on what could be the worst day of your life. We're going to make your bad day better.

Check out my video hang at Station 12 and learn a bit more about these local heroes and their firehouse here in the Haight!

—love—



JENNIE STEPANIAN: ADVANCING PSYCHEDELIC LAW

Jennie Stepanian, a San Francisco native and attorney, recently shared her remarkable journey into the world of psychedelic law. Her road from Deadhead, to Public Defender, to an advocate for psychedelic law showcases the interconnectedness of San Francisco's history, music, and social justice.

HSV: You said you were a Deadhead and grew up in SF, did you always want to get into law?

JS: Yes, as a Deadhead, I traveled on tour. On the road, I would get phone calls from people who got pulled over, searched and busted, in very obscure towns in Texas, Kansas, Iowa – places where you did not want to get caught with any type of marijuana. I would call my father, Michael Stepanian (founder of the Haight Ashbury Legal Organization aka HALO in the early '60s) and say, "Hey,

I really need a lawyer in Kansas, can you help us? We really need this, please, please!" I would explain the situation and get the right lawyer to handle the case. My dad was part of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) and able to find the best lawyers in any state.

HSV: On Haight Street, I see a lot unhouseed people with mental health issues and substance issues. Do you have anything to say from the standpoint of this situation in SF?

JS: It's a huge problem everywhere, not only in SF.



Jennie & her baby, Plez.

The old way of dealing with hard drug addiction through methadone clinics, which the Tenderloin has plenty of, is not working.

Psychedelics help people face the cause of their trauma straight in the eye. If one combines microdosing psychedelics and therapy, plus the 12 steps, a lot of people

can be helped. The microdosing can stop when the therapy is completed. With methadone there is no end in sight.

HSV: How did you connect with Dr. Smith?

JS: I have known Dr. Smith my entire life as the go-to expert on addiction medicine and the founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic. Last year I worked with DecrimSF on a decriminalization Resolution the SF Board of Supervisors passed unanimously. The Resolu-

tion was an Order from the Board of Supervisors protecting gifting, gathering and growing plant psychedelics from police interference. Dr. Smith helped me prepare for the hearing.

HSV: I hear you're a new mom, Congratulations! What would you say to your son in 18 years?

JS: Follow your heart and never stop believing that you can change the world.

*QR for full interview with Jennie Stepanian.
Law Offices of 819 Eddy Street, 415-771-6174*



HAIGHT ASHBURY PSYCHEDELIC CENTER PRESENTS:

PSYCHEDELIC ROUNDTABLE #3 WITH P.E.A.C.

ART
BY
ALEX GREY!

PSYCHEDELIC AND ENTHEOGEN
ACADEMIC COUNCIL (PEAC) IS
COMPOSED OF UCSF RESEARCHERS,
CLINICIANS, AND TRAINEES WHO ARE
ACTIVELY ENGAGED, OR INTERESTED
IN, THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
PSYCHEDELICS AND ENTHEOGENS

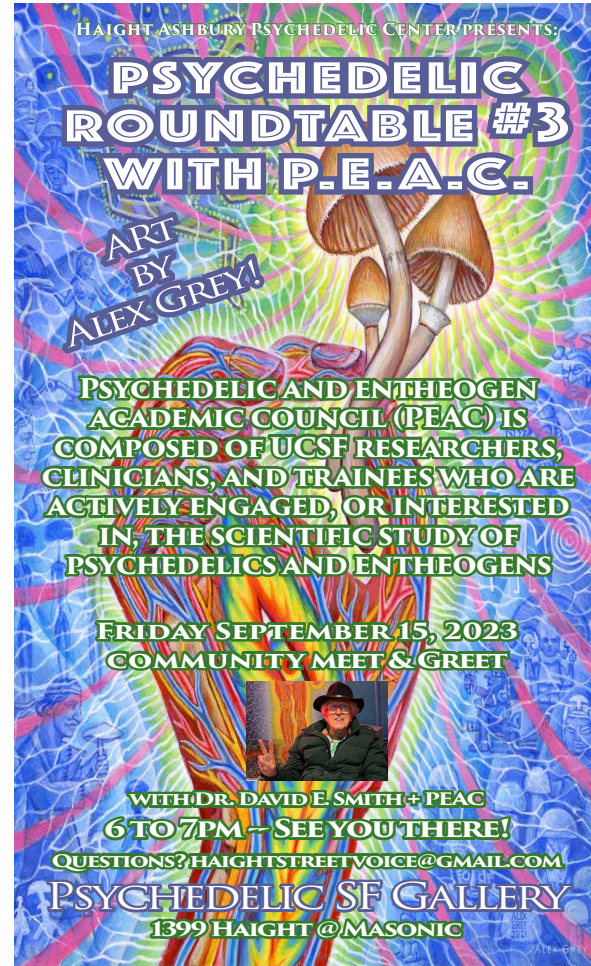
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
COMMUNITY MEET & GREET



WITH DR. DAVID E. SMITH + PEAC
6 TO 7 PM – SEE YOU THERE!

QUESTIONS? HAIGHTSTREETVOICE@GMAIL.COM

PSYCHEDELIC SF GALLERY
1399 HAIGHT @ MASONIC





SELL US YOUR STUFF!

Vinyl ★ CDs ★ DVDs ★ Blu-ray
 Music Books ★ Video Games!
 Highest Prices Paid!!

**WE BUY LARGE
 COLLECTIONS!**
 (Call for details)

AMOEBASF
 1855 HAIGHT ST.
 (415) 831-1200

AMOEBABERKELEY
 2455 TELEGRAPH AVE.
 (510) 549-1125

CHATTIN' IT UP WITH CHUCK PROPHET

Chuck Prophet was in high school when I first met him in the early '80s. Local band, Bad Attitude, the common thread. His bass player happened to be my roommate at 612 Ashbury. The Bay Area music scene was buzzing — tons of raw new bands and badass venues. Fast forward a bazillion years later and here's Chuck talking about

(among other things) what will be his seventh time playing Hardly Strictly Bluegrass right here in our backyard.

HSV: Bad Attitude is kind of where it all started for you, right?

CP: I certainly learned the ropes with them. They were a little bit older and able to get gigs at the Mabuhay. The Stone on Broadway,

Berkeley Square. It was a pretty good time to have your kite up, you know, when the wind changed direction. We also did a lot of frat parties in Berkeley and we'd have to stretch things out. Whether it was The Animals or Them or The Yardbirds — they had all those records, and that's kind of the building blocks of how I play guitar. That's really kind of what I'm still doing, you know? [laughs]

HSV: And now here you are, that kid I met all those years ago, playing HSBG for the seventh time. It must be heartwarming, a good feeling, to be surrounded by all those legendary troubadours.

CP: It's great to be included. It's been a wonderful gift to SF by Warren [Hellman]. He had a certain enthusiasm for bluegrass music, and I think he wanted to share that. I don't know that the *Oh Brother Where Art Thou* soundtrack had come out yet or if people

were aware of groups like Nickel Creek or Alison Krauss. I think the festival really did its part to keep a lot of that art form alive. There are a lot of young people today that know about Emmylou Harris and maybe it brought them to Townes Van Zandt or The Stanley Brothers, and what a great thing that is.



HSV: It's pretty wild surviving all these years, the ups and downs and all that. Yet here you are, still gigging.

CP: I've been lucky enough that I woke up interested in what I'm doing and that's kind of a gift, you know? There's been new people to play with and new records and new songs and

that's kept me going. I'm happy when people show up.

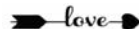
HSV: What are you working on now?

CP: I'm working on a cumbia record, Latin music out of Columbia and Cuba. Been jamming with different people. I played with a group from Salinas called "Qiensave" at the Hipnic, a Mother Hips Festival. And of course I still have the Mission Express — best band in town.

HSV: See y'all at Hardly Strictly!

CP: Golden Gate Park is a magical place. I like to tell people that it's the kind of festival where you don't have to worry about buying tickets from some shifty character in the parking lot because it's completely free! Bring a blanket, sit in a meadow, and listen to tunes.

Chuck Prophet & the Mission Express play HSBG on Sunday, October 1, Rooster Stage. QR code it for other dates to see Chuck!



LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES' TERI TENCER

"I'm a cat, horse, children whisperer:

They're attracted to me. They always have been."

Teri Tencer – the energizer bunny of good-willed souls – is the Prevention Services Coordinator at Larkin Street Youth Services. The 1317 Haight Street facility recently changed locations potentially for good, but Teri is happy to report that, with an upgrade of the premises, they expect to reopen by the end of September. Here's a glimpse into her journey in becoming such an important, caring, passionate person in this community:



"I used to go to the playground and bring kids home all the time — as if my mother could keep up! [laughs] I don't know what it was, I just always knew I wanted to take care of children.

And animals. I decided this is the best way to spend your time.

"In August of 2012, I got a phone call from Larkin Street Youth Services, so I went in for an interview. Everybody was dressed very nice and I looked the way I look now [laughter]. At one point she asked "How do you relate to the youth?" One of people said, "I listen to music." Somebody else said, "Oh yeah, I listen to the same music." I didn't realize but I said it loud, I thought I said it under my breath: "Oh, I'm just a Deadhead." The woman who was interviewing me said, "We've got a spot on Haight Street. Do you want it?" I was like, "Yes!" At 13, I declared I was a hippie, so I said, "Mom! It finally paid off!" [laughter]

"I came to SF for the same reasons the kids are com-

ing here for. Even though, unfortunately, the Summer of Love is way gone, there's still that need for possibility of just being themselves. We get a lot of youth from Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and a lot of them are probably nonbinary, and they flee, they come here because, well, we have the resources, but also because they feel like they're safe here. They can be who they want to be here, and I think that's a really important piece to it. I give them unconditional love, every single one of them, and they know that. The thing is yeah, maybe they're strung out, but maybe if you keep going back and saying, "Hey, how you doing? Do you need some food ..." or whatever, you make a connection. And for a lot of them, that's what they need. A connection.

I've got kids who are third-generation homeless. Knowing that you've helped in some way is the best feeling. It's like a ripple in a pond. Maybe 5, 10 years down the line they're gonna remember that support. That's what's important.

"We'll have lots of food, they can make their own food, we have a bathroom, we have couches, they can hang out, they can sleep. It's just a safe space for them to be. We have card games, board games, coloring books. Again, just a safe space for them to hang out and just be who they want to be. We've only had one rule in there and it's always been: be aware of how your behavior impacts the space."

Follow the QR code and read the full transcript of Teri's journey.



**FOLLOW HAIGHT STREET ART CENTER
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT**

- ★ SCREEN PRINTING CLASSES ★
- ★ POP-UPS IN THE COMMUNITY ★
- ★ EXHIBITIONS ★
- ★ AND MORE!!! ★

HAIGHTSTREETART.ORG | 215 HAIGHT STREET

We at San Francisco Heritage love every corner of this great city, including its most iconic.



www.haightandashbury.org



Since 1971, San Francisco Heritage has defended, celebrated, and illuminated the city's architectural and cultural inheritance.

SF HERITAGE

HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS & OTHER HAIGHT HAPPENINGS!



by Kenna M. Lindsay

Hot dang! A Fall fixture of Golden Gate Park since 2001, **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass** free music festival is happening at the end of September! Featuring over 40 talented troubadours, HSBG is a toe-tapping, soul-soothing experience every year. Grab a blanket, lay back in a meadow, and listen to some mighty good tunes!

HSBG is hardly the only awesome thing happening in the Haight. If you can't make it to HSBG, check out some of the other Haight Street venues. We have comedy clubs, book signings and talks, live music all over the place, art galleries and creative workshops: there's always something fun to do in the Haight!

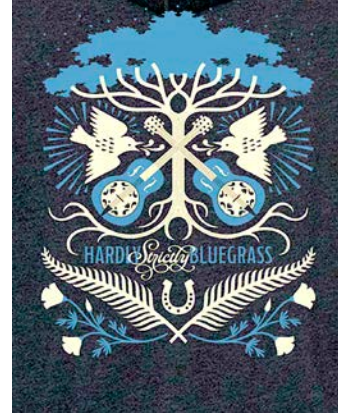
When I plan to party the night away on Haight Street, I check out the Drag Show Trix at **Trax Bar** and some of the live comedy or a dance mash up event at the **Milk Bar**. For festivities at any time, check out **Mellow** sessions or the

inspiring artwork on the wall at **Psychedelic SF Gallery**! Tons of shops have live music events that you can find out about through their websites and socials: follow them for pop-up concert info.

For my book-loving locals, you can join a book club at **Borderlands Books** (which specializes in Horror and Sci-fi), attend a thought-provoking and sometimes comical discussion hosted by **Booksmith**, or have radically deep thoughts about something you read in **Bound Together Anarchist Book Collective** to reach your hippie roots.

Finally, I have to tell you about the different workshops available at **Workshop SF**, **Mellow**, **710 Collective**, **Firebird Yarns**, and **The Click studio**. If you want a group activity like learning how to sew, knit, crochet, throw pottery, or if you just need new photos for your socials they have you covered for a hella fun afternoon with your friends!

Dive into a deeper detailed version of this article for more times, dates, and groovy events to go experience!



STREET PERSON SPOTLIGHT: ELENI GARDNER

Meet Eleni, 25, mama to son Wiley, Franklin the dog, and Sid Vicious the cat (who happens to be my new kitten's mama!). Eleni is also a badass artist and mandolin player. We love running into this family here in the Haight. Grateful and so happy to feature them in this edition. Love y'all!

The "American Dream" has become a nightmare.

Economic collapse, vacant storefronts and impoverished communities are lining the streets everywhere you turn. The social stigmas against the homeless community have kept most people milling about their lives, spending \$7 on a latte while a man asks for food outside and is ignored. The vacant storefronts have become a rotating circus



of traveling and local artists, inevitably lining the streets on the weekends instead of open shops. Every one of them can tell you an absolutely fascinating story, that's why we're all here. Spreading the idea that you can live outside the boxes of traditional social constructs and live a more fulfilling life that way is not a mission for the faint of heart.

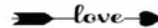
Before coming to SF, I had been traveling the country for a few years after living in Denver and finally finding myself unable to morally condone bagging affluent people's groceries during a veritable economic and societal collapse. The dystopia got to be too much for me and I decided to travel

again, this time mostly by train and hitching. I got my shoulder cat after an unexpected turn of events landed me in Michigan, and took that kitten to 27 states before finally settling here. Everywhere I've been while traveling people come to hear our stories, listen to music and buy us beer and food. The support and kindness you see living as a professional free-roamer is something most

people can't imagine. This country is falling apart, there's a drug crisis everywhere, every city has a homeless problem, and a drug problem, not enough resources, not enough jobs, too many jobs that exist just to make people money. People want to see someone thriving, no one wants to be trapped in a 9 to 5 anymore but there's still too much stigma against being homeless for everyone to quit

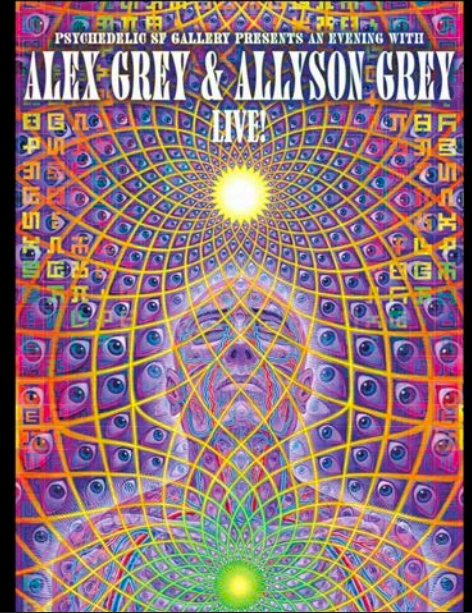
their jobs and create real change in the way we all live.

Haight Street has definitely been different, I don't think I'd be able to live the same life without the support of the community here. We have gotten a lot of dirty looks, we've seen a lot of kindness that totally outweighs those rotten glances. Nothing has ever meant more to me than traveling, playing music and creating art to support that lifestyle. You don't need a house to live a fulfilling life, you don't need a "job", and you don't need to judge people that choose to live according to a different standard. This life is a blessing, we've all got to help each other treat it that way.



Psychedelic SF

ORIGINAL ART - PRINTS - POSTERS - BOOKS - SCULPTURES



EXHIBITION
RUNS NOW

xTHROUGH NOVEMBER 15

1399 Haight St, San Francisco, CA 94117

www.psychedelicartgallery.com



Support
Local Journalism!

SUBSCRIBE
TODAY!



Thank you MEOWY much!
https://www.patreon.com/haight_street_voice

Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by
Michael Sollazzo



Hello, Haight-Ashbury!

After the hard work (and play) of Summer, we next move through Fall, a time of abundant harvests and the reaping of what we've sown. As such, our horoscopes will look at the influences of Jupiter (expansiveness, luck, growth, abundance) and Saturn (structure, work, reward) through the Autumnal months. During much of this time, both planets are in retrograde (appearing to move backwards), with Saturn going direct in early November. Retrograde periods are often useful for introspection, reflection, and perhaps even integration and transformation.

Aries: If no one else was looking, what would you work on? This may be a time for some introspection while attention is elsewhere.

Taurus: You may wish to take stock of your finances and the material things you've accumulated. What serves you and your next phase of growth? What might slow you down?

Gemini: Being pulled in a couple directions likely isn't new for you, so is there a way to have fun and to also take steps towards your goals?

Cancer: You may find that reapproaching a past project or integrating a previous habit is a bit easier during this time. Feel free to use this to your advantage.

Leo: If things feel like they're going a little sideways, this may be the pivot you need to position yourself for what's ahead.

Dance with changes instead of resisting them.

Virgo: If you're not getting where you want to be with what you've been doing, what adjustments can be made to your current habits to meet the goals you seek?

Libra: External demands may be lessened during this time, giving you the chance to rebalance your internal needs.

Scorpio: Are you on the path to achieving your desires? Can you validate the progress you have made and realign yourself to reach the finish line?

Sagittarius: Have some long-term goals that you recently put in place? Any challenges to them now may be a way to test whether you're willing to put in the work to achieve them.

Capricorn: If you stretched yourself a little recently, this may be when that risk starts to pay off. Either way, this is likely a positive time for reassessment.

Aquarius: How can you iterate upon past success to keep your momentum going, even if it is in a slightly new direction?

Pisces: While you may not be a fan of too much structure, this may be a time to reorder things to fit your current needs and future plans.

Schedule an astrology reading or spiritual counseling at hello@michaelsollazzo.com or visit www.michaelsollazzo.com.



SPORTS DESK

by

Cynthia Johnston



First, the rug gets pulled out from under you. Next, you figure out how to get on top of the damn thing and ride it like a magic carpet.

My long-term house-sitting gig is suddenly coming to an end. The gorgeous condo in Bakersfield that I've cared for since 2014 is going on the market in March. "Oh.... OH.... OK," said I, recovering from the initial shock in about five seconds. It wasn't really a shock, anyway. I was "getting short" in the BFD, and I could feel it.



And just as suddenly, the Pink Palace was calling my name. Stashed in my friend's Blue Ribbon Auto parking lot, my broke-down palace – a 1986 Windjammer – sings her siren song.

Covered in dust to discourage intruders, tires flat, there she waited. I opened the creaky door and instantly fell back in love: Driver's seat covered in pink velveteen with tiny white flowers. Two matching pink upholstered armchairs, matching pink cushions on the bench seats at the kitchen table. With a little elbow grease and some loving

care, totally livable. My little pink playhouse on wheels. Go ahead and say it. I know you want to: It's Barbie's Playhouse!

Barbie's Playhouse is moving to Tahoe. I can't wait. But first, I'm preparing the condo for sale. I'm learning new stuff, communicating with various tradespeople and my homeowner. I want to make it as easy for her as possible. I am grateful beyond words for this opportunity to hunker down and focus on writing all this time. I could never have created my website and several blogs without this extended alone time. Now it's time to make something else out of it.

Road trip! Two magical words that make my heart take flight. Falling into abundance: First, you let yourself fall, like Alice down the rabbit hole. Next thing you know, you sprout wings and you're off on a magic carpet ride.

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



All Saints' Episcopal Church



Blessing the Haight since 1903

THANK YOU HAIGHT STREET VOICE

**FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND YOUR SERVICE TO
OUR COMMUNITY ALL THESE YEARS**



**WITH GRATITUDE,
THE HALLINAN LAW FIRM
CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS**

(415) 837-3449

WWW.HALLINANLAWFIRM.COM